

Sick economy needs a life-saving package for recovery

Norman Lamont last week set out the economic framework which will allow him to introduce new policies to secure John Major's "Strategy for Growth". This is excellent news because the recession is getting worse.

Personal bankruptcies are running at seven times the normal annual rate; more firms are going out of business than last year; many homeowners, as a result of the decline in house prices, find they have a negative net worth; and all economists are agreed that unemployment will go over three million — some say it might go to 3.5 million or even four million.

The Treasury has completely underestimated the seriousness of the situation. The problem for the next 18 months is not inflation but deflation. In order to get the country moving again, we will have to bring in measures which are far-reaching and which, in easier times, would not be contemplated. These

measures should be announced as a comprehensive package — a mini-Budget — and not dribbled out in bits and pieces. In particular, random small interest-rate cuts will do little to restore confidence, as we discovered just over a week ago. Businesses across the country want to see a coherent package which they can understand and get behind. All Conservative MPs want to see a package which they can explain to their demoralised supporters and go out and sell.

A new economic package should include five elements. □ A substantial reduction in interest rates, initially to 6 per cent. Over time there is the possibility that rates could go lower. In 1933 Keynes said that in a deep recession interest rates should not exceed the level of inflation. A significant reduction in interest rates will not of itself secure economic growth, but it is one of the elements that will begin to restore confidence, and it will give relief to



Kenneth Baker
MP, former cabinet minister, believes the Treasury has misjudged the depth of recession and advocates a five-point plan for economic recovery

people and businesses burdened with debt.

□ Many homeowners are sinking in the debt trap. Low interest rates will help them but action should be taken to prevent a further decline in house prices and property values generally. Property values are likely to fall in 1992 by over 7 per cent, and half a million fewer homes are now being sold annually.

The current tax relief of £30,000 a year should be increased to £60,000 for first-time buyers for a two-year

period. The net cost of this must be negligible since over the past two years mortgage rates have averaged about 12 per cent. If they came down to 6 per cent then the current Miras bill would be cut to half its previous level. This move would stimulate the housing market and help the building trade.

□ British industry, particularly the manufacturing sector, should be encouraged to increase its capital investment. Indeed, if companies can afford it, investment in

new plant and machinery during a recession can put them in a good position when the recovery begins. Capital expenditure for the next two years should be tax deductible. In effect this is the reintroduction of a short period of capital allowances. This will encourage profit-making companies to invest, and should lead to an investment-led recovery with all that implies for job creation.

It is important that the recovery should come this way in view of our current balance-of-payments deficit. A continued recovery runs the risk of sucking in yet more foreign goods. □ Norman Lamont made clear last week that he has ruled out cuts in the government's capital expenditure plans. This is good news for the Jubilee Line, the Channel link, the roads programme and public sector housing. The government will have to be inventive to find new ways to attract private capital into

these public projects. This means the relaxation of existing Treasury rules. For example, we need ten more prisons, and for these tenders should be issued on a complete "design, build and operate" basis to the private sector. This means that the government would not have to find about £100 million per prison, but would enter into a leasing arrangement over a long period. If there were a choice between cutting the roads programme and introducing toll roads we should settle for toll roads like virtually every other country in the world.

The government should also look at the capital expenditure package of £50 billion, introduced by the Japanese government. This is designed to prevent their economic growth falling below 2 per cent — they should be so lucky!

□ British industry must make the most of the floating pound and a more realistic value of sterling. Every speech that the

prime minister and the Chancellor make distances them from joining a system of fixed parities. The government should launch an export drive. This means a better export credit guarantee scheme, more in line with the conditions available to our competitors. It also means that the part of the foreign-aid programme which is called Aid and Trade Provision — the help we give to British manufacturers to win contracts overseas — should be increased. All other countries help their companies to get infrastructure contracts. In this way, we should as well.

How is all this to be paid for? Fortunately, little is proposed by way of new public spending: improvements to Miras would be self-financing, while the tax breaks being offered postpone revenue rather than cancel it; the leasing of public projects rather than financing them outright allows the government to spread certain types of expenditure. The government

could also take a leaf out of the book of the Japanese government, which has issued construction bonds to fund additional capital projects.

But we must recognise that the protection of capital expenditure will mean a most stringent approach to current spending and that this will entail the nation having to make sacrifices. This is the sort of package that makes sense, that people can understand and which businesses will welcome. The danger is now not inflation, but a depression turning into a slump.

Let us get our economy moving again, then we can take action in about two years' time to ensure that it doesn't boil over again as it did in 1988-9. The purpose of such a package would be to restore confidence: confidence of businesses, confidence of consumers and confidence of overseas investors in our country, that we are setting out on the right road.

Poll shows increase in voters who say Lamont must resign

By Peter Riddell, Political Editor

PUBLIC opinion has swung heavily against Norman Lamont remaining as Chancellor of the Exchequer in spite of the government's new emphasis on growth in its economic strategy and mid-October's further cut in interest rates.

The Market & Opinion Research International survey for *The Times* carried out between October 23 and 27 — and before last Thursday's Mansion House speech — shows that 60 per cent believe he should resign, and 30 per cent say he should stay.

This contrasts with the immediate aftermath of Black Wednesday when sterling withdrew from the exchange-rate mechanism on September 16. Then the public was still willing to give Mr Lamont the benefit of the doubt. A *Times*/MORI poll in late Sep-

tember showed that just 45 per cent thought he should resign, compared with 44 per cent saying he should stay. Since then Mr Lamont has come under heavy fire in the press and from MPs, even though he has stuck persistently to the task of rebuilding economic strategy.

The biggest movement against Mr Lamont has occurred among 35 to 44-year-olds: the proportion favouring his resignation has risen from 47 to 68 per cent. Among Tory supporters, the number seeking his departure is up from 22 to 36 per cent.

The latest Mori survey also indicates that John Major's decision to step up his campaign for ratification of the Maastricht treaty has had some impact in cutting back the previous high level of opposition, especially among Tory supporters. In the poll

taken in late September, immediately after Black Wednesday and the French referendum, 68 per cent said they would have voted against ratification if a referendum were held. The number opposed has declined to 59 per cent in the latest survey. But this is still much higher than the 46 and 48 per cent recorded in June and in mid-September (before the French referendum). These figures are after excluding don't knows.

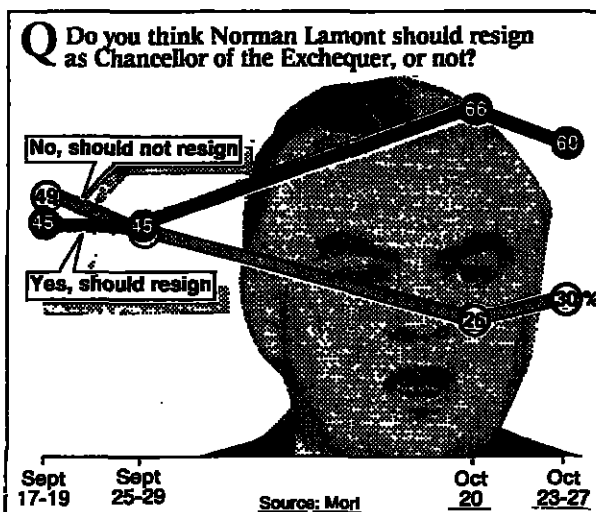
The change in the level of opposition over the past month has largely reflected a switch among Tory supporters, no doubt responding in part to Mr Major's appeals for loyalty. In late September Tory supporters were 69 to 31 per cent against the treaty, now they are split exactly evenly.

There has been a much smaller change among Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters which are both 62 to 38 per cent against the treaty. The views of Liberal Democrat supporters contrast sharply with the strong backing for ratification of Maastricht by Paddy Ashdown.

The latest survey shows little change in the consistently high level of support for holding a public referendum on whether to agree the Maastricht treaty. This is now 66 per cent, down from 72 per cent at the end of September, but in the same range as in recent months.

MORI interviewed a representative quota sample of 1,784 adults aged 18+ at 142 constituency sampling points throughout Britain. All interviews were conducted face-to-face between October 23 and 27. Data were weighted to match the profile of the population. Copyright Mori/Times Newspapers.

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Minorities hold key to fate of Maastricht

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Britain in Europe either. If the government made clear that there would be a general election if the motion failed, "of course we would vote to remove this government. I cannot wait for that to come. But that is not the case."

Mrs Beckett said that if the Liberal Democrats propped up Mr Major, the country would not forgive them. "If he wins the vote, John Major will have a mandate to go ahead with the public spending cuts which he denied would be made. No doubt when the full impact of Norman Lamont's spending cuts is revealed, the Liberals will throw up their hands in horror and then vote against. That will be the height of hypocrisy. For if they vote with John Major next Wednesday, they will have played a crucial part in giving him a fresh mandate to break his election promises."

Mrs Beckett added that every time a senior Tory was interviewed he accepted that the debate would be the height of hypocrisy. "Indeed, the word 'confidence' is now on everyone's lips. The Tory leadership, in the hope of bringing their backbenchers into line, is now positively telling them that this

is a matter of confidence. Paddy Ashdown is alone in that he is resisting what is obvious to everyone else."

"Between now and Wednesday, he has the choice. He can either hold on to his ever-diminishing fig-leaf and prop up John Major, or accept, as everyone else does, that this is an issue of confidence, and therefore lead the Liberals in voting against John Major."

Elsewhere, former Tory chairman Lord Parkinson said the government seemed to have lost control. Speaking on the BBC *Panorama* programme to be transmitted tonight, he said: "All governments make mistakes and miscalculations, but this one seems to make a string of them. At the end of the day, the buck stops at Number 10."

□ A Mori poll for *The Times* shows that Tory voters are now evenly split on whether they would back the treaty in a referendum, compared with 69 per cent who were against in September. Opposition among all voters has fallen from 68 to 59 per cent. Labour and Liberal Democrat supporters are both 62-38 against the treaty.

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Ministers wrangle over spending cuts

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about some of the cuts proposed. He is to argue tonight that they would hit procurement projects, seriously affecting employment in the Tyneside and Clyde shipyards. Virginia Bottomley is said to have secured fulfilment of the manifesto pledge for growth in health spending, but is reported to be deeply opposed to some of the cuts proposed in her budget.

Gordon Brown, the shadow chancellor, claimed that the cabinet was engulfed in crisis, chaos and internal warfare, adding: "I believe the cabinet is set to betray yet more Conservative election promises and the only argument now is how many election promises they can get away with breaking."

The pressure points this week are: **Defence:** Mr Rifkind's fight to save the European Fighter Aircraft may mean a £500m order for two replacement amphibious assault ships, a helicopter landing ship for the Royal Marines and three Type 23 frigates will be delayed. **Social security:** Invalidation benefit, set to rise to £7 billion, is top of the list for cuts. Other benefits, including housing benefit, income support and

family credit, could rise by less than the level of inflation. **Health:** Spending on new hospitals is under threat after Mrs Bottomley's success in winning £500m to ease introduction of community care. A pay freeze would severely hit health workers. Ministers are arguing for a compensating release of receipts from local authority housing sales.

Transport: Prospects are rosy for the Jubilee Line, but the £2 billion Crossrail linking Paddington and Liverpool Street could be delayed. Future road projects, including bypasses and widening schemes, face cuts. **Environment:** Mr Howard is struggling for £2 billion to ease council tax pains. Success will mean reductions in the £2 billion housing programme run by Sir George Young.

Overseas aid: A 15 per cent cut has been demanded by the Treasury. **Home Office:** A £1 billion prison building programme is under threat. **Employment:** Cuts in the £2 billion training budget are threatened, and there are fears about whether local training and enterprise councils can survive with smaller resources.

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MPs in their surgeries

Rightwinger grapples with rare indecision

By Arthur Leathley

POLITICAL doubt does not often afflict Vivian Bendall, the staunchly right-wing Tory MP for Ilford North.

A vehement pro-hanging, anti-abortion and anti-immigration campaigner, he has rarely felt the need to consult formally with his Essex constituency association. Even when the poll tax was tearing apart many associations, he felt able to decide his stance alone.

Such are the uncertainties over Wednesday's Maastricht vote, however, that he held a 2½-hour meeting with constituency stalwarts on Saturday night. "This is probably only the third time I have done this in 15 years and that's includ-

ing party leadership contests," he said. "But if you don't consult them over a major issue like this you are very silly."

Not that the rare meeting at the Gant's Hill Conservative headquarters has helped him to make up his mind. Those present had spent a hectic week contacting 300 ward representatives. Much opposition was linked to the economy, with representatives pointing to the need to rejoin the exchange-rate mechanism if Britain were to follow Maastricht through. They see any move towards rejoining as having immediate economic consequences, not least in forcing up interest rates.

The 15 who attended Saturday's calm but widely divided discussion were split three ways, with no overall majority. No formal vote was taken but Mr Bendall estimates that almost half oppose the government on its motion, with a third in favour. Among the remainder there were significant misunderstandings over what the treaty contained.

"In the end, they have confidence in me to make up my own mind but it is certainly not made up yet."

Perry whips will try to help Mr Bendall with his quandary and he will be influenced greatly by the general mood of fellow MPs, particularly in the right-wing '92 group, of which he is a leading member. The one overwhelming view from Mr Bendall's constituency supporters is that Wednesday's vote is irrelevant. "This is not the real issue and the timing of it is just wrong. If the prime minister wants to push this through without realising what is happening in the country, he is out of touch."

He is dismayed by threats of a general election and concerned by reports of deselection threats to dissenting MPs. Even with his majority of 9,071 he is aware that he would not be immune to a backlash from constituents who prospered in the mid-80s but are now closing businesses and losing homes by the score. Clutching a letter from a newly unemployed Tory voter vowing not to support the government again, Mr Bendall said: "The economy is what matters to people out there. Maastricht is just an attempt to blinker people from the real issues but people won't be distracted."

Lib-Dem breaks rank

A LIBERAL Democrat MP added further doubt to the Maastricht vote calculations yesterday by saying he would break ranks with his party and vote against the government.

Nick Harvey (Devon North), a long-standing critic of the treaty, believes he will be the only Liberal Democrat to defy the party's strong pro-Maastricht line, but does not believe his vote will tip the balance, though it could be crucial if the BBC's estimate of 27 firm Tory rebels is correct.

Speaking from his home in Barnstaple, North Devon, he said: "I certainly will not vote with the government and I shall almost certainly vote against. Personally I do not think my vote will be vital. I am a new MP and I may be wrong but I think there will not be anything like enough Tory rebels to put the government in jeopardy. As the hour gets nearer they have a habit

of dropping off like flies just as they did over the poll tax."

"I am not voting out of any sense of political opportunism. I am against Maastricht altogether and I have never agreed with centralising power, which I think it does despite Mr Major's assurances about subsidiarity."

"I do not think my colleagues are wildly happy about my views but if we really are a liberal party they will have to put up with it."

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Doctors and family expect Piggott to make speedy return

FROM RICHARD EVANS, RACING CORRESPONDENT, IN MIAMI

AS LESTER Piggott lay in a hospital yesterday after being crushed by his mount in the Breeders' Cup Sprint, doctors at Hollywood Memorial Hospital in Florida were marveling at his resilience and physical condition.

Susan Piggott, the jockey's wife, said: "The doctors are tremendously impressed with his fitness and state of health, so I don't think we have seen the last of him by any means. He came out of the fall a lot better than expected. I believe his fitness will be a great contributory factor towards a speedy recovery."

Robert Sangster has no doubts about Piggott's future. "He will definitely be back. You will never tell Lester Piggott when to stop. He should carry on and he will continue to ride for me."

John Reid, a weighing room colleague of Piggott, said: "Lester is like everyone else. He doesn't feel he is 57 years old. The day I start predicting what Lester will do is the day I will pack up."

Piggott's ability to stage comebacks is matched only by his remarkable skill in the saddle. No sportsman in the world today has displayed such mental and physical powers to overcome adversity and emerge triumphant.

For most people, four days away from their 57th birthday, the prospect of recovering from an horrific fall to ride again is unthinkable. But Lester Piggott is not like most people.

Peter O'Sullivan, the voice of racing and a confidante of the 11 times champion jockey, said: "You are talking about such an amazingly honest athlete who has spent most of his 57 years tuning his body into the instrument it is."

"I am personally in no doubt he will ride again. It will be going through his mind that it had to happen this is the best time of the season. He knows perfectly well such injuries are part of the sport."

"He has come back very swiftly from bad injuries. He

had a fractured leg in his early days at Lincoln and he knows all about the effect of them. He knows all about the dangers of the sport. This could not have been a more horrendous experience than that at Epsom in 1981 when an ear was nearly torn off while leaving the stalls. Yet he rode a Classic winner within a few weeks.

"Of course, if you are talking about a normal man of 57 coming back it is nonsense. But you are not talking about a normal man. In a sense he has been very lucky, but he's no stranger to the physical adversities that can assault you in this game. He'll be back. I would bet on it." Mr



Susan Piggott: "Doctors impressed"

O'Sullivan said. Four years after the Epsom incident, Piggott was dragged along the ground at the same course by Durtal, with one foot trapped in a stirrup.

The ability to bounce back from injury is matched by a ruthless determination on and off the course. In 1954, when he had a six-month riding ban unexpectedly commuted,

Piggott's weight crept up to over nine stone. Ryan Jarvis said he could ride a horse at Newmarket six days later, provided he got his weight down to eight stone. He somehow shed the unwanted pounds and emerged victorious in a 36-runner race. Two

years after "retiring" in 1985, he was sent to prison for tax offences. Yet he had the mental strength to recover from that ordeal, before taking the tough decision to resume his riding career in 1990.

Yet again he defied the critics who predicted failure and humiliation. Within a month he had astounded the racing world by riding Royal Academy to success in the Breeders' Cup Mile in New York. This year, his 44th as a jockey, he has enjoyed yet more Classic victories with Rodrigo de Triana.

Before Saturday's race, Piggott had told Walter Swinburn, a fellow jockey, that his mount, Mr Brooks, had not travelled well to the starting stalls. Last night it was suggested the accident might have been avoided if the horse had not been on the pain-killing drug Bute, which is banned in this country.

Mr O'Sullivan said: "I think this was an eloquent argument against the use of drugs like Bute and Lasix. If the horse had not been unnerved he would have been sending out signals much earlier that something was wrong."

"It was only Lester's sensitivity which told him something was amiss. He knew before the horse knew he was in trouble."

Richard Hannon, trainer of Mr Brooks, said: "I just wish we had not come here, but you can't turn the clock back."

Piggott's eldest daughter, Maureen Haggas, said her father would be home soon. "He's OK, really not too bad. They'll be letting him out of hospital soon. They are amazed at how fit he is and how well he's doing."

"He'll probably be let out in the next day or two. Then he'll stay quietly somewhere and when he feels like getting on a plane, he'll come home. He was planning to stay a few extra days anyway, to have a bit of a rest."

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PIGGOTT'S YEARS OF OVERCOMING INJURY

Head: Concussed when fell from horse in July 1952; knocked unconscious in fall during pile up at finishing post in October 1964; nearly killed when mount bolted in 1977; head smashed and ear partly ripped off when horse ducked and slid under starting stalls in April 1981; sustained facial injuries when mount reared up in July 1984; concussed after thrown from horse in October 1984; concussed when thrown in Florida on Saturday

Collar bones: Broke collar bone twice, falling from horses in March 1961 and September 1951; left collar bone fractured in Saturday's fall

Chest: Bruising to right side of chest in April 1981; left lung partially collapsed, two ribs fractured in Saturday's fall

Back: Severe bruising to lower lumbar and back in April 1981 accident

Hands: Damaged thumb during fall in 1974

Legs: Broke leg in collision with other mounts in September 1951; severe bruising to right foot in April 1981; chipped thigh bone when dragged along course after saddle slipped in August 1984

Recovery schedule defies the odds

BY JEREMY LAURANCE
HEALTH SERVICES
CORRESPONDENT

THREE days from his 57th birthday, Lester Piggott could have been expected to take many months recuperating.

All healing processes tend to slow with advancing age. Cells in the bone known as osteoblasts which are responsible for healing act more slowly and the muscles synthesise protein necessary for regrowth at a lower rate. But by vowing to return to the saddle within two weeks, he is showing the mental strength that could greatly reduce the time for recovery.

According to John Grimley Evans, professor of geriatric medicine at Oxford University: "If a patient is very fit and highly motivated that has a big effect on recovery. Often, the attitude of mind is the limiting factor. Some people of 57 can recover almost as quickly as people half their age."

Piggott was knocked unconscious in the fall, although he was reported to have come round in the ambulance and talked to medical staff. He was taken to intensive care where doctors ordered a scan to check for brain damage. "Sportsmen are kept off for three weeks after suffering concussion because some brain tissue is lost," said Tom Bucknoll, consultant surgeon at St Bartholomew's. "Whether the effects are lasting depends on where the site of the damage is. If the base of the brain is damaged that could affect his balance and co-ordination or cause weakness down one side."

Piggott's other injuries — a broken collar bone, fractured ribs, gashed head and partially collapsed lung — are unlikely to cause him problems, despite his age.

On average, people of 57 take a little longer to recover than people of 30, but that is because some people decline very rapidly," said Professor Grimley Evans. But it was a mistake to assume that because Piggott was in his late fifties his recovery would necessarily be prolonged.

Scales of justice disclose anomalies

BY RICHARD FORD
HOME CORRESPONDENT

BIG differences in sentencing practice in the crown courts of England and Wales have been disclosed in figures on the costs of imprisoning offenders.

More than £8 billion was spent on the criminal justice system in 1991-2, according to a Home Office study. Figures for the previous year show that the average cost of holding someone in custody for a month was £2,000 compared with £89 for a probation order and £76 for a community service order.

The figures show that while almost 70 per cent of those convicted of domestic burglary at Chelmsford Crown Court in 1990 were given a custodial sentence, only 40 per cent of those convicted at Acton Crown Court received a similar sentence. The average sentence imposed at Acton for domestic burglary was just over ten months compared with 22 months at Chelmsford. Other figures in the study show that the average sentence for someone convicted of robbery at Beverley Crown Court, Humberside, was 44.3 months, compared with 32.6 months in Coventry and 18 months in Bournemouth.

The study showed that in 1990-1 the average costs to the Crown Prosecution Service at a magistrates' court was £67 per person compared with £494 at a crown court. It estimated that the overall cost of proceeding against a suspect in a magistrates' court was £210 and that the average cost of a crown court day was almost £6,000.

The analysis of costs and sentencing practice is the latest document produced for the judiciary and magistrates to try to help them to avoid racial and sexual discrimination and to make them more aware of the costs of jailing offenders. The Home Office hopes to encourage sentences to consider community based sentences as a cheaper alternative for those convicted of all but the most serious offences.

Michael Jack, a Home Office minister, said: "This information will shine a light on financial decision making and allow practitioners to be more aware of the implications of their own decisions."

Tucker takes charge of anti-terror squad

BY RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A NEW head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch starts work today in the midst of the most sustained IRA mainland bombing campaign since the mid seventies.

From today the "unknown" David Tucker will find himself in the spotlight as he takes over a command that controls the deployment of officers and co-ordinates anti-terrorist work among all forces in mainland Britain. He is destined to become one of the best known detectives in the country, appearing at the scene of terrorist incidents to offer reassurance to the public that they should not be deterred from carrying on with their normal business.

Mr Tucker, aged 50, joined the Metropolitan police in 1964 and for much of his career has worked within the CID. Two years ago he became head of SO11, a unit responsible for the collection of criminal intelligence and its evaluation and surveillance operations.

He takes over as head of the anti-terrorist branch following an admission by the IRA that it was responsible for the "proxy" bomb attack near

Downing Street on Friday night. Two men forced a mini cab driver to deliver the bomb to within 100 yards of Downing Street after hiring the car from Swift Cars in Southgate, north London, between 7pm and 8pm.

They booked the car driver through the office intercom and asked to be taken to Finsbury Park, but during the journey said they wanted to be taken to Kensington. They stopped outside the Forum hotel in Gloucester Road before being driven to the two men abandoned the car.

They had threatened the driver with a gun and ordered him to go to Downing Street, warning him that he would be followed, and if he did not obey, the bomb would be detonated.

During his journey from the Forum to Downing Street, the driver called for help to a couple in a sports car and another taxi driver, but they thought he was crazy. Eventually he was able to alert a passer-by, who informed the police. Officers began clearing the area in Whitehall as his vehicle arrived.

Council might close 'most lawless school'

BY MATTHEW D'ANCONA, EDUCATION CORRESPONDENT

A SOUTH London special school said to resemble a war zone more than a place of learning is likely to close after a damning inspectors' report, it emerged yesterday.

Visitors from Croydon council's social services department last month discovered an anarchic regime at the Sir Cyril Burt School in which "abusive language, physical and verbal violence, open defiance and ridicule was the norm".

Their confidential report said that children were routinely sent home for their own safety, as gangs roamed the playground, armed with knives and metal bars. One pupil needed eight stitches after a beating by older boys and another was suspended for headbutting the school's head of care.

"The situation was very frightening to witness," the report said, "with children being kicked and punched by other children, chairs being thrown across the school, breaking children climbing on wall bars and refusing to come down, often spitting and swearing obscenely at staff members." The council's education committee is now considering closure, but may reopen the school "under new arrangements".

Mary Donaghy, the head teacher, and Des Vine, the deputy, have been suspended following mounting concern about the management of the school, which has 68 pupils.

Jerry Fitzgerald, the council's Labour education spokesman, said that the school was "the most lawless in Britain" and could not stay open as presently run. An independent enquiry is to be held into the school's future.

Zoe Laker, 18, who lives near the school, said she had met one of its pupils late at night running down the street in his pyjamas.

"He said there had been a big fight in the dormitory and he pulled down his trousers to show off an enormous bruise. It must have been at least four by eight inches. It was as though someone had hit him with a large lump of wood," she said.

Nick Patel, who runs a delicatessen opposite the school, claimed that pupils had consistently harassed customers and stolen goods from his shop.

Millionaires' row is 63,000 houses long

BY ALAN HAMILTON

BRITAIN, a nation thought to be in terminal decline, has at least 63,000 millionaires and may have as many as 95,000, according to a survey to be published today. Sadly, most of them are dead.

The magazine *Business Age* does its sums by reworking statistics from the Inland Revenue for the liability of the departed for inheritance tax, and adding the anecdotal evidence that published wills leaving more than £1 million now run at the rate of four a week. It concludes we are squandering away our assets like never before and that one in 630 of us is a millionaire. The secret is partly inflation and a devalued pound, but most of all it is the value of our houses we leave when we die. By far the largest element of

the nation's gross national personal wealth is in residential property, estimated at £545 billion. Next come insurance policies, valued at £180 billion. Shares in listed companies are put at £70 billion and land, the traditional repository of old money, at a mere £24 billion. Margaret Thatcher's dream of a property-owning democracy appears to have been fulfilled on the deathbeds of those who partic-

Year	Number
1987	4,000
1988	4,000
1989	6,000
1990	18,000
1992	63,000

Source: Inland Revenue

ipated in it, but the collapse of property prices may well mean that a similar survey in five years' time will show a reduction in the number of millionaires.

In 1967, it was calculated that there were barely 1,000 British millionaires. You could buy a Rolls-Royce Silver Shadow in those days for a mere £10,000, get a nanny for £4 a week, have a matching pair of Purdey shotguns made for £2,500, and send the boy to Eton for £614 a year.

Today, a Rolls-Royce Silver Spur will set you back £112,000, a pair of Purdeys £60,000 and a year at Eton £10,000. Even in 1967, those few millionaires were complaining that they needed assets of £5 million to live the equivalent lifestyle of a mil-

lionaire at the end of the war.

The number of millionaires had crept up to 4,000 by 1982: two years later it had doubled to 8,000, and by 1989 it had soared to 18,000.

Old money has been largely supplanted by new; a survey of the 200 richest Britons by *Money* magazine in 1988 showed that only 32 came from the traditional landed gentry.

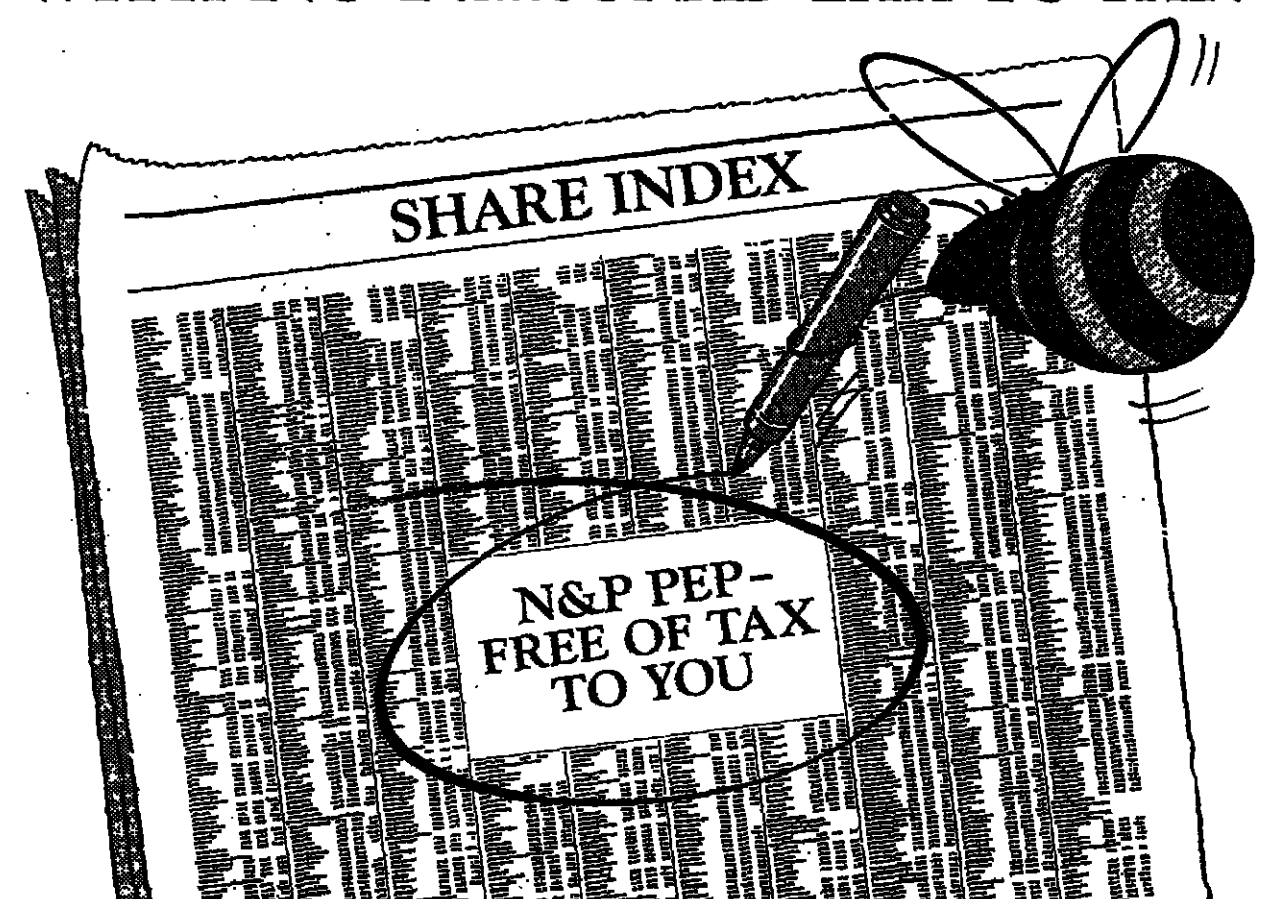
Football pools are perhaps a truer indication. Littlewoods' first dividend in 1923 was £2 10 shillings; earlier this year, Littlewoods paid out a first dividend of £2,246,113.

Business Age calculates that each Briton is worth, on average, £36,000. Those on the average will take some comfort from the fact there are no pockets in a shroud.

*PEP, N&P UK Income Fund - first place in the Microcap Unit Trust UK Equity Income sector for 1991 for Ten Year Performance to end 1991. Source: Microcap offer to bid set against L&L&L. N&P UK Income Fund (formerly Key Income Fund). The levels and bases of taxation can change and the value of net asset depends on individual circumstances. The underlying funds are subject to compounding risk. The Society is an appointed representative of N&P Unit Trust Management Ltd, which is regulated by the Financial Services Authority. THE VALUE OF UNITS AND THE INCOME FROM THEM CAN GO DOWN AS WELL AS UP AND CONSEQUENTLY THE INVESTOR MAY NOT GET BACK THE AMOUNT INVESTED. PAST PERFORMANCE IS NOT NECESSARILY A GUIDE TO FUTURE PERFORMANCE.

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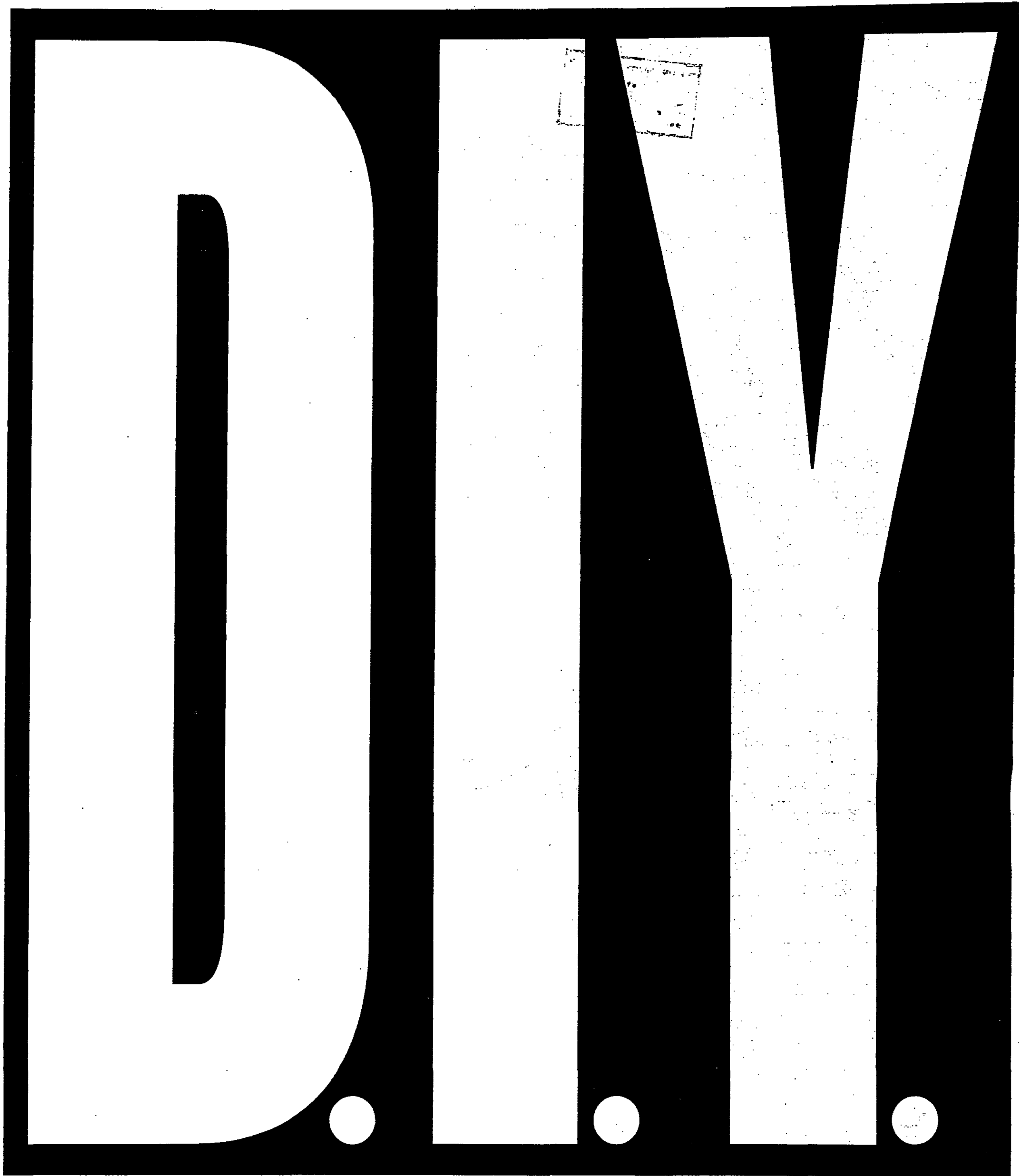
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Sexist attitudes persist in male-dominated senior management, survey finds

Old prejudice prevails as women strive for the top

By TIM JONES

OLD boy networks, ingrained prejudices and outdated attitudes to marriage and families are seen by women as the biggest barriers to their progress in business, according to a report published today.

Nearly 1,500 women managers and 800 of their male colleagues took part in a survey for the Institute of Management, which says it is the most comprehensive research project of its kind. Roger Young, the institute's director-general, said: "Men are the prime barrier to women in management. Despite some progress, old-fashioned sexist attitudes are still common and represent a real, not an imagined, barrier."

Helena Packshaw, marketing director of BHS, which sponsored the survey, said: "The findings are disturbing. They show that when it comes to management a substantial proportion of the population are regarded as second-class." Only a third of the men were sure that women had positive skills. One male manager said: "In general, women don't make good managers."

The survey shows that women who have fought prejudice appear to have done so at considerable cost to their social lives. A third of those surveyed were unmarried compared with 8 per cent of men, and 12 per cent were divorced or separated compared with 5 per cent of men.

Children and a management career are largely incompatible for women, the survey shows. Of those who had children, 47 per cent said their career had been adversely affected compared with only 16 per cent of the men. Taking a career break was also thought to be fatal to a management career. One woman said: "If you leave work to have a child, you effectively lose all skills in the employer's eyes and have to start again."

A male manager said: "Successful management requires commitment with no outside worries — for women to succeed they must be single or have adult children."

Employers are generally seen as unsupportive of female managers and one third of



Winning women in a man's world: Gee Armitage, a jockey, and Christina Gorna, a barrister

women feel they do not receive adequate respect from male superiors. One woman said: "Men are happy to work with women and for women to be promoted provided they do not have to work under them." The institute's report says

that many women are simply in the wrong job to make it to the top in management. Mrs Packshaw, a working mother, said: "If companies are serious about their commitment to equal opportunities, they will need to reappraise their selection and promotion criteria."

Most still favour male experience yet the skills of women managers will be increasingly relevant as the workforce becomes more diverse. □ Employers should recruit men in preference to women

during the recession, the novelist Dame Barbara Cartland said yesterday. "We have children running wild with mothers at work and men hanging around street corners with nothing to do," she said.

Sterling's fall brings signs of life to property market

By RACHEL KELLY, PROPERTY CORRESPONDENT

THE top end of the residential and commercial property markets are showing the first signs of life, with a significant upsurge in investment from overseas in premium central London office blocks and houses.

Investors are taking advantage of low prices and the strength of their currencies against sterling after Britain's withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism on September 16. Agents say interest is up by 50 per cent from the beginning of the year.

Richard Lay, spokesman for the Royal Institution of Chartered Surveyors and chairman of one of the largest commercial property letting agents, Debenham Chawson & Chinnocks, described the investment activity as significant. He estimated that more than £750 million could be invested in the coming year in central London commercial property by investors from Germany and the Middle East.

After a "famine", Mr Lay said there had been "a considerable amount of investment interest from German and Middle Eastern buyers in the last three or four months". Commercial buyers are interested in high quality properties in familiar locations such as Mayfair, the West End and the City, with high yields and reliable first-class tenants. Overseas buyers are interested in buying buildings for invest-

ment only. The lettings market remains flat, with about 42 million sq ft of office space available across London, and little sign of pick-up from businesses whose confidence remains fragile, Mr Lay said.

Knight Frank & Rutley, however, reports successful recent lettings in Docklands in Exchange Tower, owned by Charter Group, to Japanese Credit Bank International.



Lay: "Considerable investment interest"

Southern Africa Europe Container Services and Mobile Systems UK.

Capital values of office blocks have halved since their height during the boom in commercial property in the late 1980s. Rents have also fallen from levels of about £75 per sq ft during the boom, to £30 per sq ft.

In the residential property market, the greatest interest at the top end is coming from

Americans and other buyers from countries with dollar-based currencies including Canada and the Arab states. Knight Frank & Rutley says.

Buyers are attracted by lower prices, with the value of the pound against the dollar falling from a high of roughly \$2 before Britain withdrew from the ERM to a level of \$1.56 now. A £100,000 house that would have cost roughly \$200,000 three weeks ago would cost a US buyer \$156,000 or less now.

Lorna Vestey, a director of Knight Frank & Rutley, said: "Before Britain's withdrawal from the ERM there was really no US presence in this country at all. It's significant that a sector that was completely dead is now buzzing."

She said foreigners account for 70 per cent of the sales of top central London houses and flats over £400,000 and are crucial to keeping up prices of premium property in central London.

Other agents also report an increase in interest from foreigners. James Laing, of Strutt & Parker, said: "As far as the property market was concerned, the pound was seriously overvalued. We saw foreign investors disappear until yesterday. We are now seeing a significant increase in interest."

□ The exodus of firms and businesses from London may have been thrown into reverse by the property slump, according to *Personnel Management* magazine. Some firms have begun to move from outer London to more prestigious central addresses, and fewer companies are taking the decision to relocate out of London — 14 last year compared with 36 in 1990.

Christians accused of ghetto mentality

By RUTH GLEDHILL

TRADITIONALISTS in the Church of England, at present fighting to prevent the ordination of women priests, were urged yesterday by their figurehead to abandon their politicking and their ghetto mentality.

The Bishop of London, Dr David Hope, a leading figure of the church's Anglican Catholic wing, called for openness to God's will in place of "the considerably negative mind set of the Catholic movement, its siege and ghetto mentality".

Dr Hope was preaching at All Saints, Margaret Street, the centre of the recent "affirming Catholicism" movement, whose members endorse tradition but do not intend to leave the church should women be ordained to the priesthood. Many believe women priests can be encompassed within a traditionalist, Catholic framework in the Anglican church.

Dr Hope is regarded by Anglican Catholics as an opponent to women priests but until yesterday stayed aloof from the debate, which is threatening to split the church when the General Synod meets next week.

He is concerned that the church should remain united to face more serious issues. All Christians should look beyond themselves "to the vast and increasing numbers of folk in this land to whom the Christian message is either of little importance or more often than not totally irrelevant".

Love for country life threatens to make ghost towns of cities

By ROBIN YOUNG

MORE than 12 million people would move to the country in the next ten years if they could, threatening an exodus "on a massive scale which would turn cities into ghost towns", according to a report published today.

Over one third of the UK population already live in rural areas, and another three in ten would be prepared to follow them, the research organisation Mintel found. Its survey, commissioned from NOP, showed that one in ten of the adult population, a total of four million, say they plan to move to the country in the next five years. Another one in five would move if they could.

If everyone who wanted to move could, Mintel concluded, the exodus would have a dramatic effect on cities.

The research found that many stereotyped differences still exist between regions. Northerners were more likely to enjoy a night out at a pub, and southerners to drink at home. The keenest bargain hunters lived in the North, the most adventurous holiday-makers in the South.

Northerners were more likely to think job security was more important than money, whereas people in the South were still more likely to say they would rather have no job than a boring one.

Yet the desire to move out of cities was widely shared in all regions, and was particularly evident among the young.

Angela Hughes, Mintel's consumer research manager, said: "The main impetus of the move to the country is from the younger age groups, and especially those in the lower

income socio-economic groups, rather than those who plan to move out of the city when they retire."

Among those under 35 in the ABC1 groups, more than a sixth were found to be planning to move to more rural surroundings by 1997, but in total more than a quarter of those in the younger age groups would move to rural areas if they could.

Most people who wanted to move cited their main reason as the noise and dirt of cities.

The appeal of open spaces in rural areas attracted nearly half, while one in five felt rural life would be less stressful. Factors including crime, community spirit and bringing up children were mentioned by fewer than a tenth.

Mintel says that preliminary results from the 1991 census show that there was a "cascade" of population from urban toward more rural areas throughout the 1980s. Remote, mainly rural areas showed the fastest population growth, adding 6 per cent in the decade to 1991, while all large cities and metropolitan areas lost between 4 and 7 per cent of their population.

Mintel believes that the official projections for population changes over the next two decades may be too cautious, and suggests that cities should be made more acceptable or attractive places to live by greening urban wastelands, providing more open spaces, and tackling dirt and noise.

□ *Regional Lifestyles 1992* (Mintel; 071-606 6000; £795)

Leading article, page 17

Cost-cutting tourists bypass the Tower

By ROBIN YOUNG

VISITORS turned away from the country's leading tourist attractions last year in favour of less expensive visits to farms, gardens and country parks, according to a report published today by the four national tourist boards.

The report, *Sightseeing in the UK 1991*, shows that visits to the top 20 admission-charging attractions in the UK fell by 8 per cent in 1991. They had an average admission charge of £5.50, well above the £1.84 average for the 5,188 attractions that supplied figures for the report.

The figures showed a 16 per cent drop in visits to the Tower of London in 1991, and a 13 per cent decline at Stratford-upon-Avon. Historic properties lost 4 per cent of their admissions, and wildlife attractions drew 6 per cent fewer visitors.

The total number of sightseeing visits at a constant sample of 2,323 attractions fell by 1 per cent, and the report estimates there were 345 million visits to tourist attractions in 1991, generat-

ing a record £880 million revenue. The National Trust alone earned £38 million from admissions, shop sales and catering receipts.

John East, chief executive of the English Tourist Board, said: "This survey is most encouraging in a year of economic difficulty and the effect of the war in the Gulf. It demonstrates that the high quality of attractions in this country is paying off."

Despite the recession, 36 main tourist attractions, with more than 30,000 visitors a year, achieved an increase in visits of 30 per cent or more.

The reasons given included special events and exhibitions, longer opening hours, and

improved marketing and publicity. The report says: "Gardens, country parks and museums tend to have low admission charges or free admission and this would have helped them in a year of recession."

The number of people going to farms increased by 5 per cent, visits to gardens went up 4 per cent, and country parks attracted an additional 3 per cent. Museums and galleries showed a 1 per cent increase overall.

Despite a drop in numbers, which the report blamed on the recession, the Gulf War, and the subsequent fall in the number of American visitors, historic properties were still top of the attractions list with 76 million visits. Museums received 58 million visits, country parks 49 million and leisure parks 34 million.

Sightseeing in the UK 1991 (English, Northern Ireland, Scottish and Wales Tourist Boards from Department D, English Tourist Board, 24 Grosvenor Gardens, London, SW1W 0ET; £19)



Towering attraction: too expensive for visitors

IRA gunmen kill one and injure six more

One man was killed and six others injured in separate IRA gun attacks in Belfast over the weekend. The dead man was 30-year-old Samuel Ward, from Belfast, who was shot dead by two gunmen at a Gaelic football club early on Saturday evening. The outlawed republican splinter group the Irish People's Liberation Organisation later confirmed he was one of its members, adding that the group was prepared to retaliate for his death. In a statement to a Belfast newsroom, the IRA alleged Mr Ward was involved in drug dealing.

Similar allegations were made against two other men shot shortly afterwards by the Provisional IRA. Both men were injured, one seriously. The shootings were initially thought to be connected to an internal feud within the IPLD that has already claimed four lives in recent weeks.

The other injuries were all said to be the result of separate so-called punishment shootings carried out by gunmen on four men in parts of West Belfast on Saturday night and in the early hours of Sunday morning.

Alarming car secrets

The Association of British Insurers is to compile a secret "stealability" score for every new car in Britain from next year. Currently no new car would achieve all 100 points for theft resistance, with the average new car rating only 44. The score, based on an Australian system, will be based on many factors, including the quality of locks, whether an alarm is fitted and the security of boot and bonnet. The ratings will not be made public, unlike in Australia, and manufacturers will only be told their own scores, not those of rivals. Last night's spokesman for the Automobile Association said: "We want to see car security improved and believe consumers should be given as much information as possible."

Arson attacks renewed

Detectives suspect a renewed campaign by Welsh extremists after arson attacks on two unoccupied homes in North Wales and a Department of Social Security building in Llanfenni, Anglesey. Fires on Saturday night severely damaged the two houses at Bala and Penrhos, Gwynedd. The Penrhos property is owned by Wolvezhampton social services and is used to give seaside holidays to pensioners, the disabled and deprived inner-city youngsters. The last firebomb incidents in Wales were almost a year ago.

Charity cards miss mark

Only a fraction of the £375 million spent on charity Christmas cards each year reaches the cause concerned, according to *Good Housekeeping* magazine. A £2 pack of cards may yield as much as £1 or as little as 4p to the cause, depending on who makes and sells it. With some shops putting on a 400 per cent mark-up, "very little of the price you pay may find its way to the charity". The article says buying direct from a charity is the best way to ensure that a greater proportion of the cost goes to the intended cause.

Prince hitches a lift

Prince Michael of Kent was forced to hitch a lift to finish in yesterday's London to Brighton veteran car run when his 1902 Panhard Levassor broke down near Gatwick airport. The prince, who is president of the RAC, rode the last 100 yards for the rain-soaked crowds. Dennis Nicholls and his 1899 Romaine Tricycle were first to finish of the record 400 starters, managing the 60 miles in 3hr 10min. The route had been extended by seven miles to avoid roadworks.

Photograph, page 20

Notice to TSB customers.

Change to TSB Personal Overdraft rates.

With effect from 2nd November 1992, TSB is reducing its rate for authorised overdraft borrowing on the following accounts:

	From (per month)	To (per month)
Interest Cheque Account	1.75%	1.55%
Cheque Account	(Effective Annual Rate 20-2%)	1.55%
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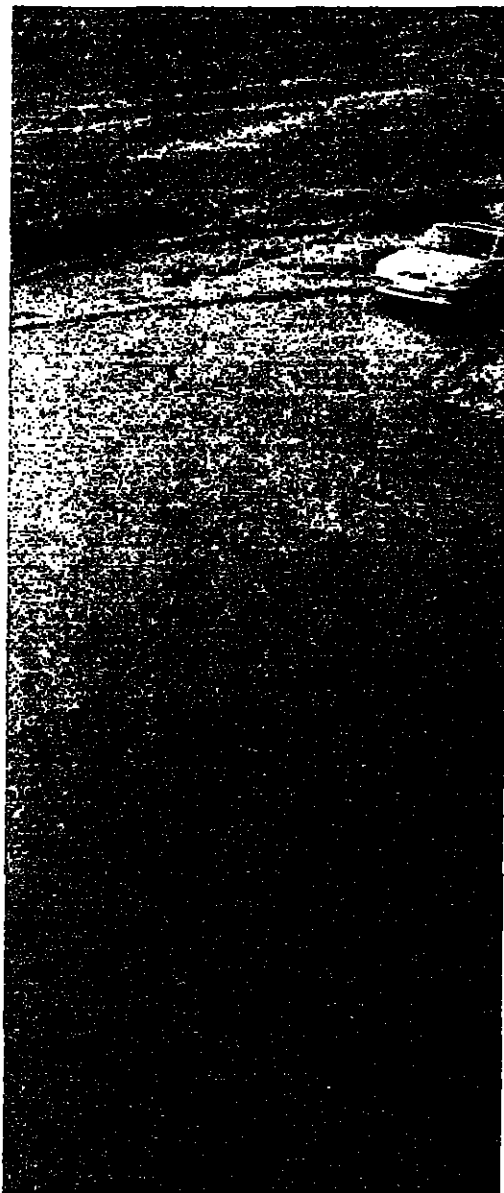
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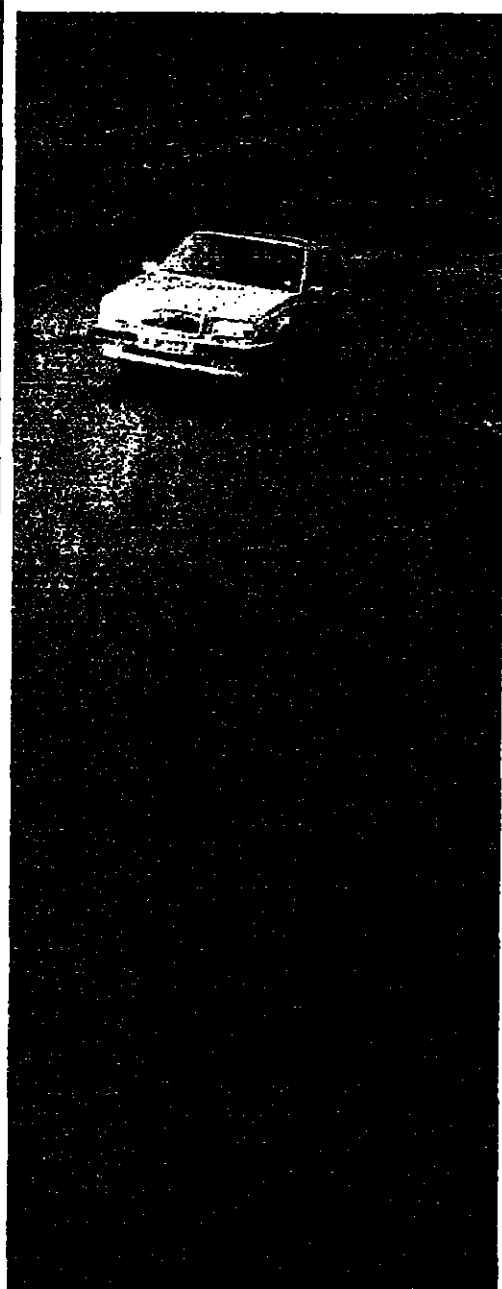
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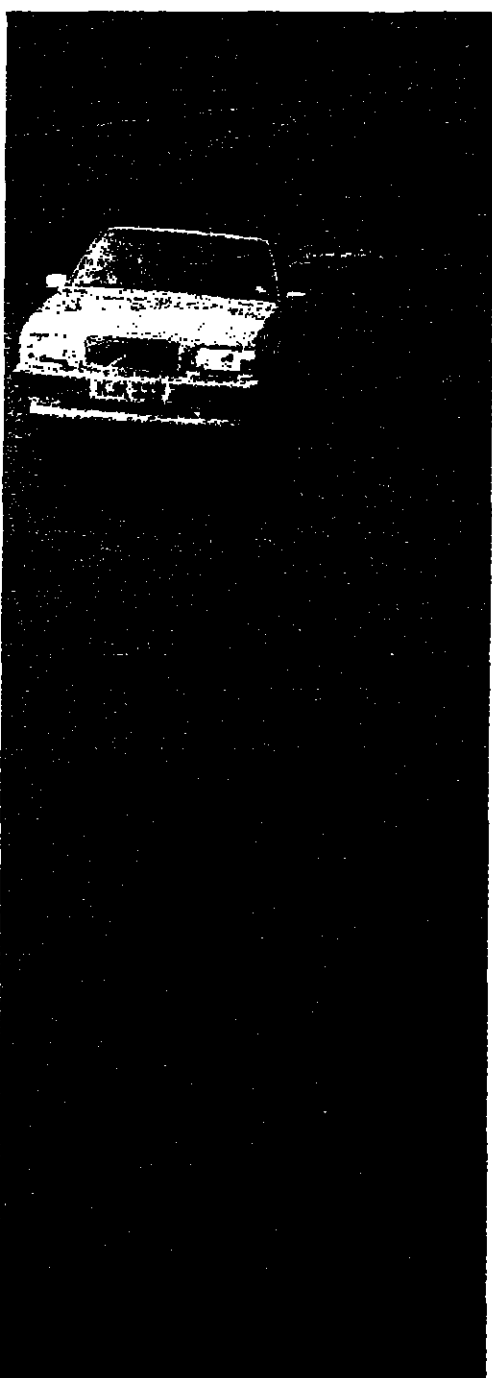
(As the engineers at Porsche, who had a hand in its development, often do.)

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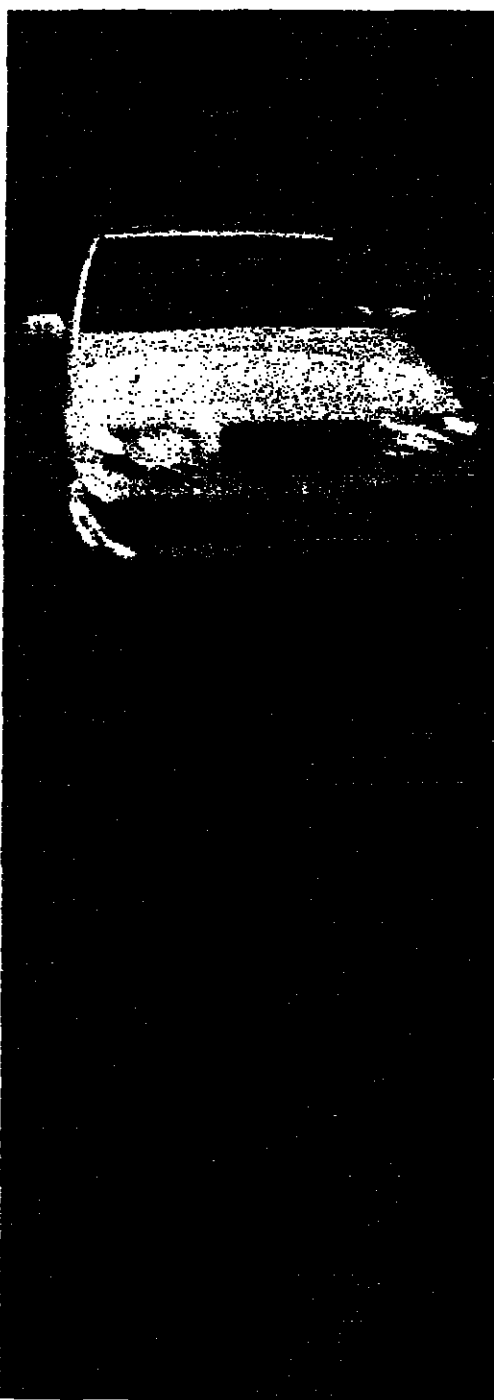
High strength steel is used in the roof, floor and central pillars, while bars run laterally inside the front and rear seats.

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Side impacts account for one in four crashes and tests have shown that this system reduces the risk of chest injury by 50%.

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Small businesses fight lenders with writs alleging breach of contract, libel and fraud

High street banks facing mass action over errors

By Tony Dawe

SCORES of bank customers, angered by the "incompetence and unreasonableness" they claim to have suffered, are joining forces to sue the high street banks in a series of group actions.

Writs alleging breach of contract and libel, and in some other cases even fraud, are expected to be issued in the next few weeks. Some legal letters have already been sent to banks giving them 14 days to right their alleged wrongs or face action in the High Court.

Many of the litigants run small businesses that have been forced to close or are threatened because the banks have unexpectedly withdrawn overdraft facilities or bounced cheques. Others are suing because they believe the banks have overcharged them on interest rates or have reneged on agreements. Many belong to the Bank Action Group, one of the mushrooming organisations feeding on widespread discontent.

Enquiries by the Bank of England and the Office of Fair Trading last year failed to substantiate claims that the banks had charged small business customers unfair interest rates, but the complaints underlying these legal actions are more far reaching.

Ken Wright, the solicitor acting for the group in the "quasi class action", said: "I am horrified by what has happened to people who were encouraged to start businesses by the banks but now find the banks wanting to pull out of agreements because of the recession."

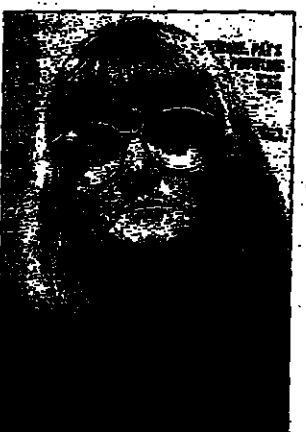
Another group representing bank customers is trying to establish a mediation service so that disputes can be settled out of court while bodies representing small businesses are calling for the banks to agree specific and unbreakable contracts with customers for whom they provide loans.

After fighting a long rearguard action, the banks are responding. This month, Lloyds will be sending its 350,000 small business customers a booklet outlining its

The big banks have been able to pick off small businesses with little accountability. A new test in the courts may usher in a 'caring' era in banking

commitment to them. Lloyds will be receiving one of the first "letters before action" from Mr Wright on behalf of Trident Exports of Haywards Heath, West Sussex. The solicitor said the bank had bounced 45 of the company's cheques and repeatedly overcharged interest. "We are entirely satisfied that the bank has been in breach of its obligations to our client and has more than once libelled them," Mr Wright has told Lloyds.

Alfred Hunt, one of the two



Griffiths: "Banks have got to be stopped"

men who set up the company, said the disbanding of cheques, often when the company was within its agreed £50,000 overdraft limit, and the inefficient handling of the account had made it extremely difficult to stay in business.

The bank has apologised on six occasions for bouncing cheques but that does not help us win back the loyalty of creditors who have lost faith in us because of the bank's action," he said.

"The bank has also reneged on a recent agreement with us and has not been professional in its dealings. We have written to Sir Jeremy Morse, the

chairman, and have been passed from pillar to post without getting any real answers or satisfaction. We have tried every method and would still like to settle this out of court, but it seems the law may be our only recourse."

Among those who expect to follow Mr Hunt into court are Pat and Mike Griffiths of Chipping, Lancashire, who founded the Bank Action Group after falling foul of Lloyds Bank and discovering hundreds more people who had been "downtrodden".

Their problem began with overcharging: they claim they were paying 5 percentage points more interest than had been agreed on the overdraft and then the facility was withdrawn altogether. They are planning to sue for breach of contract and fraud because they say the bank provided a reference to a finance company for a car loan immediately before calling in the overdraft.

Lloyds disputes the fact, pointing out "overdrafts are repayable on demand, that is a fact of life in this country" and claiming to have treated Mr and Mrs Griffiths generously by allowing them a two-year moratorium before starting to repay the overdraft.

The Bank Action Group, however, is pressing ahead with demands for a full enquiry into the high street banks and for a restriction of their powers and has enlisted the support of MPs of all parties. Nigel Jones, Liberal Democrat MP for Cheltenham, said: "The time has come to act to prevent the banks pushing so many small businesses over the edge and wrecking so many lives."

One of the group's main complaints is that the banks pile on the pressure once an individual or business runs into difficulty. "They impose an unauthorised interest rate,

which can be anywhere between 25 per cent and 35 per cent, if accounts go beyond the overdraft limit," Mrs Griffiths said. "They even impose a special service charge for monitoring accounts near the limit. The banks have got to be stopped from their heartless treatment of people."

While the group's lawyers press ahead with scores of cases, other customers are planning individual actions against banks and finance houses. John Essame has written to his insurers seeking authority to sue Barclays Mercantile for breach of contract after his nursing home in Dorset was put into the hands of receivers following a promise by the company that it would take no such action.

The Association of Bank Customers, founded less than five months ago but already claiming 3,500 members, is trying to establish a mediation service to solve disputes before they reach the courts.

"Everybody has a bad bank experience or at least knows someone who has," Stuart Cliffe, the chairman, said. "People who were too frightened to tackle the banks on their own are joining us but we believe mediation is a better and swifter course than legal action. The feeling in the country is so strong that we will reach a point where the banks can no longer dictate to people." The Forum of Private Business, representing 20,000 small companies, believes a contract should exist between banks and their business customers in which both sides set out their obligations.

Lloyds decision to issue "our contract with our business customers" this month goes a long way to meeting the forum demands and has improved the bank's rating with the group for its handling of small business customers from 33 per cent to 90 per cent.

A Lloyds spokesman said: "We want to help businesses and we take criticism very seriously indeed. All the accusations put to us by members of these different groups have been answered very thoroughly and we think there is no further case to answer."



MARY Marchlewski and her husband, Paul, above, face Christmas on the streets with their three small children as Lloyds Bank tries to force them out of their home in Torquay.

Six years ago, they bought for £140,000 a large Victorian building converted into nine holiday flats with extra accommodation for the owners, the bank providing a mortgage for half the total. After several poor holiday seasons,



CASE HISTORY 1

their debts have grown. Mrs Marchlewski said the position had worsened because the bank charged them a fixed managed rate of 18.8 per cent. They now owe the bank £200,000 and have been asked to accept an offer of £135,000, although it has been valued at £325,000. Mrs Marchlewski said: "An

official told me to get up to the bank, pay in some money and then go down to the council and get rehoused. But it isn't as easy as that. If we agree to leave we are thought to have made ourselves homeless and are not qualified for help."

John Robson of Lloyds said the bank was prepared to waive the rest of the Marchlewski's debt if they accepted the £135,000 offer. It would even pay them £5,000 to help find new accommodation.

CASE HISTORY 2

IAN Sultana, left, spent a week protesting outside his local branch of the National Westminster Bank in Blackburn after the bank put receivers into his business earlier this year.

He and a partner established Taylor Doors six years ago with the help of a £200,000 overdraft from the bank, which was increased to £245,000 to allow them to buy them a property which they planned as a showroom and shop.

"They had reduced the overdraft to £185,000 when the bank demanded faster and further cuts in it. 'Whatever funds came into the company the bank took to reduce the

overdraft, leaving us with no cashflow," Mr Sultana said.

After two assurances that it would continue to support the company, NatWest put in receivers who, according to Mr Sultana, recovered less than a quarter of the debts. "If they had let me do it, I would have done much better because I knew the creditors," he said. "We had a good business, we had just secured a £500,000 contract from Manchester city council and had £1.5 million worth of orders."

He plans to sue the bank for breach of contract. NatWest referred enquiries to the receivers, who were unavailable for comment.

Memorial award announced

By Robin Young

ANNE Applebaum, an American journalist who has spent the past five years studying communism and its collapse, has won the 1992 Charles Douglas-Horne Memorial Award. Robin Young writes. The award is sponsored by a trust in memory of the former editor of *The Times* who died in 1985.

Miss Applebaum, whose prize is £10,000, is in Lwow in the Ukraine seeing how the collapse of the communist system has affected people's lives. A former Warsaw correspondent for *The Independent* and *The Economist*, Miss Applebaum is now Africa editor of *The Economist*.

After graduating *summa cum laude* in both history and literature from Yale University, Miss Applebaum, 28, took a further degree from the London School of Economics and was Marshall Scholar at St Antony's College, Oxford, from 1986 to 1988. She has recently completed a travel book which is to be published in the United States, based on a trip through Lithuania, Belarusia and Ukraine made last year.

Sir Edward Cazalet, chairman of the trustees, said: "We feel that an account obtained from the grass roots by someone so knowledgeable of the former communist system should provide an enthralling assessment of the capitalist revolution and counter-revolution under the new order."

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Release of Sellafield licence will fuel debate on nuclear reprocessing

By Michael McCarthy, Environment Correspondent

BRITISH Nuclear Fuels, under attack in the High Court over cancer cases in the families of its workforce, faces an even greater public battle this month over its plans to start reprocessing a new generation of nuclear waste, much of it from abroad, at Sellafield in Cumbria.

HM Inspectorate of Pollution will shortly issue a draft authorisation for the company to operate its £1.85 billion Thermal Oxide Reprocessing Plant (known as Thorp), for which it has won contracts worth £9 billion to reprocess 6,000 tons of spent atomic reactor fuel over the next ten years, largely from Japan and Germany.

Release of the draft licence will spark an intense national argument about whether reprocessing waste fuel from nuclear power stations, the company's principal business, should now be carried on at all.

Critics claim it is uneconomical, uneconomic and a danger not only to people, but also to world peace, as besides considerably increasing the final volume of radioactive waste that needs to be handled, reprocessing the uranium fuel produces plutonium, the raw material for nuclear weapons, of which there is now a world glut. Simply storing spent fuel is the best environmental option, critics say.

There are signs that opposition to reprocessing is no longer confined to anti-nuclear groups, and that influential voices in Whitehall are beginning to have serious doubts about its worth. It is possible that the debate that will start this month could lead to a public enquiry threatening Thorp's whole future, hitherto a politically unthinkable proposition.

Ten days ago, to the surprise and anger of John Guinness, BNFL's chairman, and his senior executives, David Slater, head of the pollution inspectorate, ordered the company to halt the plant's commissioning process, which would have involved loading it with radioactive material and contaminating it once and for all.

The company has begun to fight back with a high-pressure campaign in Whitehall against any delays to the plant, suggesting they would put thousands of jobs at risk in the recession. The company's view is also understood to have been forcibly made known to Michael Howard, the environment secretary.

However, the opposition to Thorp is formidable and growing. If the plant is to run, there will be a sharp increase in radioactive emissions from Sellafield, both of liquid to the Irish Sea, and of Krypton-85 gases to the atmosphere, although the company says there will be no increase in the overall dosage of radiation incurred by local people.

At the pollution inspectorate's draft authorisation for these emissions, expected any time from next week, will be subject to an eight-week public consultation process. The charged atmosphere of the consultation will be intensified by the continuing case at the High Court in London, in which two families of Sellafield workers are seeking £10 million compensation from BNFL for the cancer deaths of their children, alleging that these were caused by the effects of radiation on their fathers' sperm. The company has been accused in court of grossly underestimating the radiation levels to which the workforce at the plant were exposed.

At the pollution inspectorate Dr Slater, who has already received 27,000 letters opposing Thorp, must take all representations to him into account when setting the final licence, but if any of those consulted are still not satisfied, they can, under the Radioactive Substances Act 1960, appeal to the environment secretary to hold a hearing into the authorisation.

This in effect would be a repeat of the bitterly fought 1977 Windscale public enquiry which gave permission for Thorp to be built, and would put a new question mark over its whole viability; at the very least it would mean serious delays.

Mr Howard could not take the decision to grant a hearing lightly. However, he would be bound to pay heed to strong public opinion, and would receive backing from a number of quarters in Whitehall where the case for reprocessing is beginning to be questioned forcefully. There are doubts about its economics in the Treasury, and in the environment department about whether it fits the principle of "best practicable environmental option" to which the government is committed.

There are also doubts about increasing the world's plutonium stockpile, reinforced by the fact that the original justification for producing plutonium at Sellafield, the need for fuel for the new generation of Fast Breeder Reactors, has disappeared as the FBR programme has collapsed.



Slater: determined that companies obey law

consultant to firms and very rarely prosecuted. Dr Slater, 52, was picked by Michael Heseltine, then environment secretary, in May 1991. It is one of the ironies of politics that Mr Heseltine — now, as president of the board of trade, BNFL's principal defender in Whitehall — may be rather less keen on the seriousness of purpose of his appointee.

This week, Dr Slater steps into the public spotlight on two occasions at the Royal Geographical Society today he will give the annual Lapworth lecture, sponsored by the whisky firm and the Salmon and Trout Association, on the subject at the core of his job: "Our environmental performance — reversing the trends." Tomorrow, in Chester, he will host the first meeting of all the European Community's environmental enforcement agencies. The three-day conference is to set up a network of co-operation between the regulators of all 12 member states.

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Low alcohol drink labels 'misleading'

THE EC's labelling laws for so-called low alcohol drinks could mislead drinkers and inadvertently cause dangerous driving, the Food Commission said today.

Britain's four-category scheme for labelling under-strength drinks as reduced, low, dealcoholised or alcohol-free is about to be joined by differing categories from the 11 other EC countries, the Commission said in its latest *Food Magazine*.

Tim Lobstein, a commission researcher, said: "The single market is about to open the door to European imports but the EC has yet to agree on common criteria. The only proposal on the table would allow wide band definitions that will add to the confusion. The potential risk of drinkers inadvertently going over the limit is tragically high."

The Commission said that it wanted all the different definitions to be replaced by a simple figure showing the amount of alcohol in the whole container.

Police arrest 120 in rave party drug raid

POLICE were questioning dozens of suspected drug pushers yesterday after springing a trap at an all-night rave party. They arrested 120 people in an operation that had taken two months to plan.

The 12-hour party began on Saturday at the Devon County Show ground at Westpoint, near Exeter. Many of the ravers were made to wait two hours in sub-zero temperatures as police searched suspects in wire pens built several feet apart to prevent drugs being passed out.

Undercover officers were inside the party and at a nearby motorway service station, where they arrested several alleged ecstasy dealers. They also seized heroin, cocaine, amphetamines and cannabis. Police all over Britain were said to be following the operation with searches of suspects' homes, and more arrests are expected.

Many of those arrested have also been questioned about other offences, including robbery and cheque and credit card frauds.

The £23-a-head party was held at the headquarters of the Devon County Agricultural Association, which helped police to organise their raid.

Chris Cullen, the association's chief executive, said: "This operation was planned with our full co-operation and the co-operation of the promoters since before the event was even licensed six to eight weeks ago."

"There were undercover detectives in the building, in the car park and at the motorway service station, and their aim was to make sure drug pushers did not find Devon a soft touch."

The police were out to get the pushers and they seem to have succeeded. At one point the ravers were queued up outside for two hours while those going in were searched very thoroughly.

"There was no reaction or aggravation from the youngsters and no problems of any sort. They didn't object to the delays even though many were in very skinty clothes and must have been freezing."

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Cabinet battle pushes Ireland towards early general election

By Edward Gorman, Ireland Correspondent

THE spectre of a general election that may become dominated by the abortion question hangs over Ireland this week as the dispute between the two government parties intensifies.

Yesterday, the Progressive Democrats, the junior coalition partners with two seats in the majority Fianna Fáil cabinet, robustly rejected allegations by Albert Reynolds, the prime minister, against their leader. Des O'Malley, the minister for industry and commerce, Mr Reynolds prompted the dispute last week when he told a Dáil-appointed enquiry into the beef industry that Mr O'Malley had been dishonest in his evidence before the tribunal earlier this year.

Mr Reynolds has had ample opportunity to retract his

accusation. The fact that he has not done so has convinced many that he is bent on an early election. One likely possibility is a poll coinciding with the three abortion referendums on December 3.

The PDs will decide tomorrow morning whether to pull out of the government. They maintain that Mr Reynolds' allegation amounts to an accusation of perjury against their leader. A clear majority in the nine-strong parliamentary party believe that they should now leave the administration unless a retraction is forthcoming — though it may even be too late for that.

Yesterday, Bobby Molloy, the second PD cabinet member, who holds the energy portfolio, said: "This reckless and foolish allegation is wrong. It was unfounded and remains unsubstantiated." The allegation threatened to damage the co-operation and trust needed for coalition government.

Mr Reynolds has insisted that an election is not necessary. He told the *Sunday Tribune* on Saturday: "I am not seeking an election. I don't want an election, the people of this country don't want an election — but if somebody decides to bring down the government, then an election there will have to be."

The consensus among political commentators in Dublin is that the government, which under the constitution does not have to go to the country before mid-1994, is morally wounded. Observers believe it is not a matter of if there will soon be a general election, but when.

Mr O'Malley has indicated that he would avoid at all costs holding an election to coincide with the December 3 abortion referendums. But pressure on him from within his own party may force his hand.

Another possibility is a new year election that would allow the abortion votes to be cleared out of the way first. This would

require a tacit agreement among the opposition parties to allow Mr Reynolds to continue in a minority government until then.

The instability in Dublin is not immediately helpful to the delicately balanced talks on the future of Northern Ireland, which are due to wind up shortly in advance of an Anglo-Irish Conference meeting on November 16. However, if the dispute results in the emergence of a new Dublin administration dominated by Fine Gael, the prospects for agreement with unionists on closer relations with Northern Ireland will improve greatly.

The PD/Fianna Fáil dispute is merely the latest manifestation of what, from the start, has been a very uneasy marriage. After the inconclusive election in 1989, Charles Haughey, then Fianna Fáil leader, only very reluctantly accepted the inevitable coalition with a party made up of people who had earlier left Fianna Fáil in protest at his style of government.

Mr Haughey's demise at the start of this year caused further severe strains with many grass roots members of Fianna Fáil again holding the PDs primarily responsible. Mr Reynolds has made no secret of his dislike of coalition government and has gone out of his way to snub his partner whenever possible.

In recent months, the PDs have been refused permission to change their ministerial representative at the talks on Northern Ireland. Mr O'Malley's views on industrial policy have been largely ignored, and open divisions have emerged over the handling of the abortion question.

Despite the difficulties, the PDs have always been reluctant to force an election, fearing the electorate would blame them for it and reduce their share still further from the 5.49 per cent of first preference votes achieved last time.



Climb every mountain: Sir Georg Solti's favourite present on his 80th birthday should help him to relax when not conducting *Otello* at Covent Garden. The mountain bike was a gift from Decca, his record company

NEWS IN BRIEF

Medicine 'becoming elitist'

Medicine is in danger of becoming increasingly elitist because only students with rich parents will be able to afford to go to medical school, according to a survey.

Dr Kieran Smart, who carried out the survey of 300 students at Bristol University, says that one in five in their fifth year had debts of £5,000 or more, damaging their mental well-being.

Dr Smart claimed there was a real danger that the "hidden debt" now born by parents would stop talented students from poorer families becoming doctors.

Mother bailed

Elaine Steele, 31, of Workington, Cumbria, was given conditional bail by magistrates yesterday after being charged with the murder of her 23-month-old baby Lisa Marie, who died in hospital at Whitehaven last Thursday.

Hunters hunted

The Quorn hunt in Leicestershire, which opened its season at Kirby Bellars on Saturday to demonstrations, will be moving its traditional Boxing Day meeting out of Loughborough, after being banned by Charnwood borough council.

Sperm counts

Doctors at the Jessop Hospital, Sheffield, have the latest technology to help childless couples, but face a shortage of a vital ingredient, sperm.

Flying repairs

The Army Air Corps is to transport 150 tonnes of stone to Dunkery Beacon, the highest point on Exmoor, to repair erosion caused by tourists.

Bond winners

Winners in the National Savings premium bonds weekly prize draw: £100,000, bond number 6HT 847670, winner lives in Liverpool, value of holding £9,015; £50,000, 17BN 096140 (Essex, £10,000); £25,000, 29WB 729513 (Suffolk, £901).

Draws put Fischer victory on hold again

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

BOBBY Fischer's efforts to clinch his match against Boris Spassky and win the world record, \$3.35 million prize purse were foiled yet again when Spassky, playing black, gained a comfortable draw in the 27th game of their chess championship in Belgrade on Saturday night. Game 28 was also drawn last night.

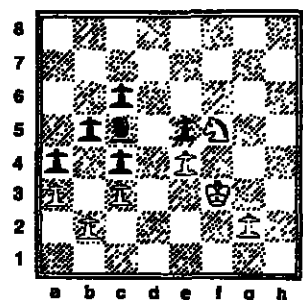
Fischer resorted in game 27 to the same variation of the Ruy Lopez opening that he had used to such effect in game nine. But his innovation turned out to be ineffective, and Spassky rapidly cleared most of the pieces.

In the resulting duel between Fischer's pair of knights and Spassky's pair of bishops, neither side could progress and the draw was agreed on move 46. Fischer has nine wins to Spassky's five, with ten needed for match victory.

Game 27

White	Black	White	Black
1 e4	e5	25 Nc3	g5
2 Nf3	Nc6	26 Nf1	g4
3 Bb5	a6	27 Kc2	Bg6
4 Bxc6	dxc6	28 Kc3	h5
5 O-O	g6	29 Nc3	g5
6 d4	exd4	30 Kf3	Bf7
7 Bxd4	c5	31 Nc4	g6
8 Nc3	Qxd1	32 Kc2	Bg6
9 Rxd1	Bd7	33 Ng5	Kg8
10 Nxc5	Nc7	34 e5	Bf7
11 Bf4	O-O-O	35 Ng5	Bc6
12 Rf2	Ng6	36 Kf3	Bd7
13 Bg5	Nf5	37 Kf4	Bc6
14 Bxc6	bxc6	38 b4	Bd7
15 Rxd1	c4	39 Ng5	Kg8
16 Kf1	Bc5	40 Nf4	Bg4
17 Ng1	Bg4	41 Ng4	Ng4
18 Rxd4	Rf8	42 Nf5	a4
19 Rxd4	Kc8	43 B	g5
20 Nc2	Kc7	44 Kc2	Bc6
21 Kc1	b5	45 Nc3	Kb5
22 c3	Kb6	46 Nf5	Bc6
23 h3	Bc5		
24 Ng5	Bf7		

Draw agreed



The final position in game 27

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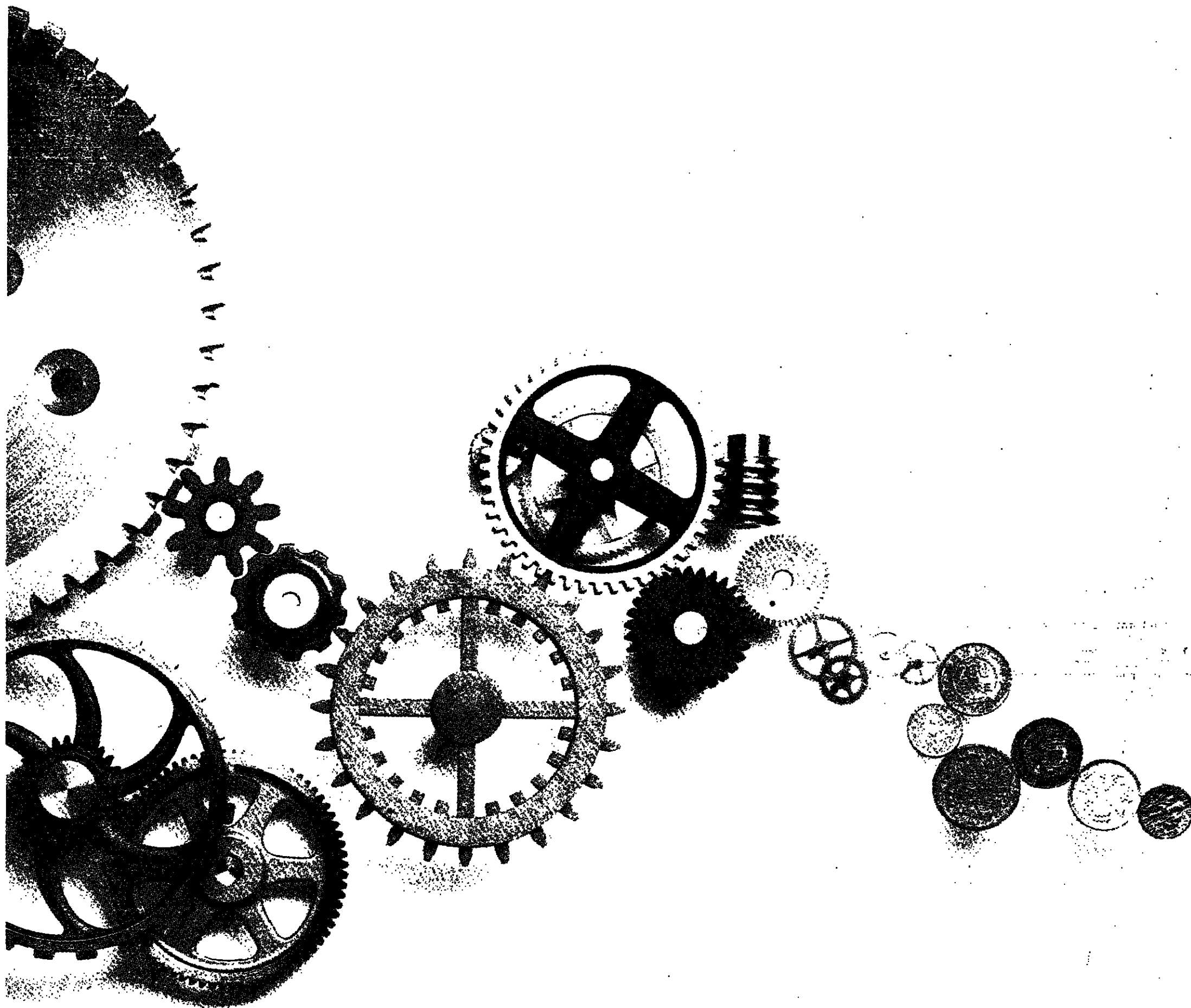
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Turkey claims victory after forces pursue Kurds deep into Iraq

By Andrew Finkel and Hazhir Teimourian

TURKISH forces operating deep into northern Iraqi territory are claiming a victory in their two-week offensive against the Kurdistan Workers' Party (PKK). Military sources say the more than 1,000 members of the PKK have been killed in fighting on four separate fronts.

An entire Turkish division has advanced 15 miles across the border, occupying 135 square miles of what is technically Iraqi soil but in effect the northern part of a liberated Iraqi Kurdish enclave. Reports from the region tell of Turkish tanks moving freely across the international high-

way into the Iraqi Kurdish border town of Zakho on their way to the front.

Fighting over the weekend was concentrated in the Hafanin region near Zakho, where Turkey says about 2,500 PKK rebels are based. Official Turkish casualties are put at fewer than 20.

As the fighting raged, opponents of President Saddam Hussein of Iraq attempted to assuage Western fears about a Shia Muslim-dominated government succeeding Saddam.

Although publicly the Iraqi Kurdish leadership has asked the 'Turks' not to become involved in what they describe

as a private war between themselves and the PKK, the existence of fuel and provisioning depots east of Zakho indicates that the Turkish army is operating with Iraqi Kurdish consent. The PKK's quarrel is with the Turkish government, against whom they have fought an eight-year armed separatist campaign.

The Iraqi Kurds rely on supply routes through Turkey for their survival and nearly a month ago launched their own offensive when an estimated 7,500 PKK rebels defied an ultimatum to stop launching raids into Turkey from the mountainous Iraqi frontier.

The Iraqi Kurds say they have received assurances that the PKK will vacate their encampments. Suleyman Demirel, the Turkish prime minister, said Turkish troops would still pursue their own objectives undeterred by any truce between the PKK and the Iraqi Kurdish leaders.

In addition to the 20,000 men already committed, another four Turkish divisions are on standby. The Iraqi Kurdish leadership is particularly uneasy about Turkish bombing runs, which according to reports of one incident killed 13 Iraqi Kurds trying to resettle their villages.

After four days of bargaining in the Iraqi town of Salahuddin, about 200 representatives opposed to Saddam set up a presidential and an executive council dominated by pro-Western parties and personalities. They asked the West to turn the southern Iraq exclusion zone into a "safe haven".

The three-man presidential council, which would replace Saddam in the event of his fall, is made up of Masoud Barzani, one of the two main leaders of the Kurds, Dr Muhammad Bahrul-Uloom, a Shia cleric based in London, and Colonel Hassan al-Naqib, a Sunni Muslim Arab who has lived in exile in Syria, Iran and Saudi Arabia.

The Salahuddin gathering, under the name of the Iraqi National Congress, also set up a 26-man executive council to be chaired by Dr Ahmad Chalabi, a young financier based in London. Dr Chalabi said the new leadership hoped to contact Iraqi government and army personnel to win them over. "Change," he said, "must take place without bloodshed or reprisals, despite the reign of terror that Saddam has inflicted on his own people."

Although Jalal Talabani, of the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan which heads the Kurds' regional government, was not elected he supports the conference's decisions.



Tears for fears: a Bosnian Muslim family crying on arrival at Travnik after being forced to leave their home in Jajce with 25,000 other refugees when the town fell to Serb forces. Now Travnik fears the same fate

Serb tanks set sights on Travnik

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN TRAVNIK

WHEN the first round of tank fire crashed into the ancient Muslim quarter of Travnik, the 100,000 inhabitants of this Bosnian city realised they might soon be sharing the fate of the hapless legions of refugees fleeing through its streets.

Although the sporadic mortar and tank bombardment on Saturday night and early yesterday caused little material damage, the psychological effect of the Serbian gunners' message was devastating.

"Now it is Travnik's turn," said Filip Filipovich, the com-

mandant of the town's Croat defenders who, along with Muslim forces, face an unenviable battle against better armed and better positioned Serbian troops. "We will do everything to stop them, but we know they have just begun their attack."

His fears seemed convincing as the stragglers of an army of 25,000 men, women and children passed through Travnik to makeshift refugee centres in schools, gymnasia and factories in central Bosnia over the weekend after fleeing their homes in the

nearby town of Jajce when it fell to Serb forces last week.

Officials of the UN High Commissioner for Refugees, overwhelmed by the size of the destitute column, described the exodus as the largest single refugee tragedy since Serbian forces began their policy of "ethnically cleansing" captured areas of Bosnia-Herzegovina. They said that thousands more Bosnians travelling on foot or by horse-drawn farm carts were still trying to reach Travnik, but were trapped west of the city in a fresh

outbreak of fighting, along a new five-mile frontline running west of the city.

An inspection of this defensive corridor, known locally as "Vietnam road" after 11 refugees were killed and 60 injured by Serbian snipers and artillery fire, does not bode well for Travnik's survival. The rag-tag Bosnian forces have chosen to dig in between the villages of Turbe and Karaula, along the bed of a narrow valley dominated by Serbian positions on the heights above.

Their supply lines are constantly attacked and movement is only possible at night down a precarious track littered with burnt-out farm houses and destroyed vehicles. To make matters worse, the Muslim and Croat forces, whose alliance is essential in confronting the Serbs, are increasingly falling out among themselves in a bout of mutual recrimination over the fall of Jajce.

"We were betrayed by the Croats, they pulled out and left us to face the Serbs alone," said Lieutenant Saleh Jularidzija, a frontline company commander. "From now on we'll have to rely on ourselves."

The latest casualty of the fighting near Travnik yesterday was a locally employed BBC cameraman who was fatally injured when his Land-Rover came under Serbian mortar fire about eight miles west of the city.

'Ethnic cleansers' build empire

FROM TIM JUDAH AND DESSA TREVISAN IN BELGRADE

SERBS took a big step over the weekend, towards the creation of Greater Serbia as they began the "legal" integration of their two self-proclaimed republics in Croatia and Bosnia. Ignoring threats by Lord Owen, the European Community peace envoy, of new sanctions, General Ratko Mladic, the head of the Bosnian Serb army, defiantly declared that might made right and denied that Serbs had conquered territory belonging to others.

He said: "The existence of the [Bosnian] Serb Republic

may be disputed in the world, but the existence of its army is indisputable. The Serb Republic exists because we have our territory, our people, our authority and all the attributes of a state. Whether they [the world] want to recognise it or not is their affair. The army is a fact."

General Mladic was speaking at a joint session of the parliaments of the two Serb republics in Croatia and Bosnia which was held over the weekend at Prijedor in northern Bosnia. Prijedor is notorious as a citadel of Serb hardliners who "ethnically

cleansed" their area of Muslims with brutality and terror. It was the administrative centre for a network of detention camps, including Omarska and Trnopolje.

The Prijedor meeting came at the beginning of a "week of tranquillity" proclaimed throughout former Yugoslavia by the United Nations Children's Fund. The aim is to send emergency help to the one million children now affected by the war, especially in Bosnia-Herzegovina. A first convoy succeeded in delivering aid to Sarajevo yesterday.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Galileo gains papal reprieve

Rome: The Pope has formally declared an end to the "painful misunderstanding" over Galileo Galilei that had poisoned relations between the church and science for more than 350 years. It fell to a Polish pontiff to recognise the validity of the theory that the Earth does revolve around the Sun, which was put forward by the Polish astronomer, Nicolaus Copernicus, and maintained, to his cost, by the 17th-century Italian scientist (Philip Willan writes).

The Pope told a meeting of the Pontifical Academy of Sciences that the Inquisition's condemnation of Galileo in 1633 had been an "incautious and unhappy decision". He said that the case had become "the symbol of a supposed refusal on the part of the church of scientific progress, of a dogmatic obscurantism opposed to a free search for the truth", leading many scientists to believe that science and faith were incompatible.

Economy drive

Beirut: Rafik Hariri, the new prime minister of Lebanon, called mainly on technocrats, many of them little-known businessmen, lawyers and doctors, to join his 30-member cabinet to help rebuild the deteriorating economy.

Nuns killed

Washington: The United States said that it was "shocked and appalled" at the killing of five American nuns from Illinois who worked in Monrovia, and called for an immediate ceasefire and negotiations to end the civil war in Liberia. (Reuters)

Dissident home

Taipei: Peng Ming-min, Taiwan's best-known dissident, returned to a hero's welcome from 3,000 supporters, including opposition MPs, after spending more than 20 years abroad to avoid arrest on sedition charges. (Reuters)

Rebels march

San Salvador: More than 10,000 left-wing rebels and supporters marched demanding military cuts and judicial reforms from President Cristiani as the formal deadline for the transition to peace in El Salvador slipped by on Saturday. (Reuters)

Cubans decide

Havana: Direct parliamentary elections to be held soon in Cuba will be "a kind of plebiscite" on the island's one-party Communist system, according to Juan Escalona, the president of the National Assembly. (Reuters)

Ossetians seize Russian troops

FROM ANNE MCELVOY IN MOSCOW

EIGHTY Russian interior ministry troops were taken hostage by rebels in the Caucasus region of North Ossetia yesterday as ethnic forces near the city of Vladikavkaz staged a bloody insurrection against Moscow.

The ministry in Moscow confirmed that the Ossetians were overpowered by 500 Ingush fighters at a settlement near Vladikavkaz. Seventy-eight hostages were then transported to the Ingush stronghold of Nizran and the rebels also made off with several armoured vehicles and automatic weapons.

Russia flew in 5,000 elite Spetsnaz soldiers after an emergency sitting of the security council, headed by President Yeltsin, on Saturday to quell the uprising. The Interfax news agency claimed 21 people died and 19 were injured since street fighting broke out on Friday night between the North Ossetians and minority Ingush.

Two regiments of airborne troops were trying to seal the border between the rival republics to prevent Ingush fighters flocking to Vladikavkaz, which they regard as their historical capital. Fierce fighting broke out on Friday night between the North Ossetians and minority Ingush.

The Ingush want to see territory in North Ossetia fit an independent republic, an announced earlier this year. Many of them have been evicted recently from lands which they occupied with the Chechens as an "autonomous region" under Soviet rule. They are demanding control of territory east of Vladikavkaz, given by Stalin to North Ossetia in 1944 when he accused them and the Chechens of collaboration with the Nazis and deported them to Central Asia.

For the beleaguered Mr Yeltsin, the surge of fighting in North Ossetia could not have come at a worse time. Yesterday he returned from Astrakhan in southern Russia, the first of his expeditions to the provinces before the Congress of People's Deputies in December decides the fate of his government. The residents of the provincial city gave him a tepid welcome. He urged people to turn away from the false certainties of the Communist period and embrace privatisation, telling a crowd in the centre of the city not to sell their recently received privatisation vouchers too quickly. "I'd sell mine to you if I thought you'd buy it," an old man retorted.

Many in the crowds shouted complaints at President Yeltsin about lack of supplies, poor public transport, and continuing hardships. In Washington, President Bush ordered an emergency airlift of food to Armenia at the weekend to ease shortages in the Caucasus. (Reuters)



Map showing the Caucasus region, highlighting North Ossetia and its surrounding areas.

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Leading article, page 17

Zulu rally condemns Mandela

FROM REUTER IN DURBAN

CHIEF Mangosuthu Buthe led thousands of armed Zulu men and bare-breasted women in a weekend march to protest against what he called government collusion with the African National Congress.

Brandishing spears and clubs and chanting war cries, a crowd of up to 10,000 snaked through the streets to Durban city hall, where Chief Buthe handed in a petition addressed to President de Klerk. It protested against agreements between Mr de Klerk and Nelson Mandela, the ANC leader, on September 26 and accused them of colluding to exclude the Zulu nation from a future South African democracy.

The chief said he felt despondent that Mr Mandela had rejected a face-to-face meeting in favour of all-party talks. "It would be difficult to draw me into a meeting of all leaders... because I believe a smaller meeting, a private meeting would be a good thing."

Last night, the ANC said that the march was provocative. It omits Chief Buthe's claim to represent the Zulu nation. Cape Town: Bruce Anderson, a Briton and member of Inkatha, has been buying guns from Renamo rebels in Mozambique, according to local newspapers.

UN observers among 300 dead as Unita guerrillas intensify Angolan conflict

By Sam Kiley

MORE than 300 people were killed in Luanda, the Angolan capital, at the weekend as troops of Jonas Savimbi's Unita - the Union for the Total Independence of Angola - clashed with government forces. The fighting appeared to be leading the country inexorably back into civil war.

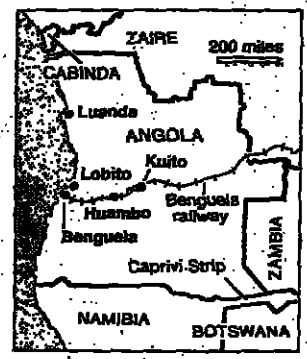
Two unarmed United Nations military observers were among the dead. They were reported to have been killed while driving through the centre of Luanda in a clearly marked UN vehicle. Government troops tried yesterday to storm Unita's Luanda office in the Miramar district near several embassies.

The Portuguese government has sent service vessels and 200 marines to assist with the planned evacuation of 40,000 Portuguese nationals. The country's entire fleet of C130 transport planes has been put on standby. A British military source in Luanda said that evacuation plans for British and other European Community nationals were suspended as it was impossible to move around the city.

South Africa is also making arrangements to evacuate its citizens and other foreign nationals and has sent the *Tafelberg*, an unarmed fast supply vessel, to Luanda. R. F. P. Botha, the South African foreign minister, who unsuccessfully tried to broker a peace agreement between Dr Savimbi and President dos Santos, yesterday described the situation as serious. Pretoria has warned Dr Savimbi not to expect any support from South Africa.

Mortars and other heavy shells from the fighting in

Jonas Savimbi has chosen to return to a war he cannot win rather than fight an election he could have won. South Africa may now intervene to preserve stability



Map showing the location of Luanda and other cities in Angola.

Miramar were yesterday landing in the bay off Luanda as Unita soldiers, counter-attacked. After a short overnight lull, heavy shelling and gunfire resumed before dawn as government soldiers attempted to secure buildings and confine Unita to its headquarters and the two hotels where its leaders had been staying.

Dr Savimbi's motives for the renewed fighting are difficult to judge. As one ambassador said recently in Luanda: "Unita and Savimbi show all the classic signs of paranoid schizophrenia - that makes them very, very difficult to understand."

The upsurge in fighting in Luanda and some provincial capitals comes a month after Dr Savimbi lost the first round of Angola's first democratic presidential elections. But, rather than enter the final race against President dos Santos, in which he might have picked up third-party votes and won, he has chosen to return to a war he cannot win.

More than 350,000 people died in Angola's 16-year civil war, which ended last May with a peace accord providing for troop demobilisation on both sides and democratic multiparty elections within two years. In the war, Unita had the backing of South Africa and America, which backed it to offset the 50,000 Cuban troops and Soviet support sent to the aid of the ruling, formerly Marxist, Popular Movement for the Liberation of Angola (MPLA).

Now it has been made clear to Unita that a return to war will fail to get outside backing and, indeed, may risk the military wrath of Pretoria, whose interests these days lie in a stable Southern Africa. Western nations have indicated that while they are anxious to keep the two sides talking, they would support the MPLA government if the peace process were to collapse because of Unita. Not the least of the reasons for this is that 50 per cent of Angola's substantial oil production is handled by the US company, Chevron.

Last month, when it became clear that Unita had lost the elections for Angola's national assembly and at least the first round in the presidential poll, Dr Savimbi retreated to the heartland of his Ovimbundu tribe in the central highlands at Huambo. From there, by moving his 30,000 troops around the countryside and indulging in the odd skirmish, he appeared to be playing a game of brinkmanship with

Luanda which would force the government into a power-sharing deal.

But it now seems clear that he had no sort of deal in mind. "It seems that Savimbi wants power at any cost," a diplomat in Luanda said.

Behind the smokescreen of multiparty elections and a peace accord, Unita was able to move its troops into a better strategic position than they managed in the 16-year conflict. UN military observers watched the demobilisation process with deep cynicism, since none of the specialised weapons, such as Stinger Sam missiles and the new American semi-automatic M79 grenade launchers, were handed in. "They turned up with rusty old blunderbusses and useless Sterling sub-machineguns but none of their sexy kit," a Western military source said.

Unita's "sexy kit" may now be used in perpetuating the civil war which reduced a potentially wealthy country to the status of an international pauper. On top of that, having seized diamond mines in the province of Lunda-Norte, the rebel group may be able to finance a war for some time.

A Western diplomat said: "This time, however, they will have no friends. The problem seems to be that Unita has never been anything but a brilliantly run military organisation, and its leaders can only think like that."

"They know they cannot win this war, but at the same time they cannot accept that they could have taken power legitimately in democratic elections."

"The problem now is, will the government be prepared to keep talking to Unita? If not, then all-out civil war is inevitable," he added.

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£10,000-£24,999	Monthly	5.41**	4.06	C&G Guaranteed Super Shares			
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Maximum permitted under TESSA rules	Annually	8.60% TAX-FREE		C&G Guaranteed Special Shares			
£100 or more	Annually	7.50% TAX-FREE		New Accounts no longer available	Half Yearly	5.00	3.75
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£25,000 or more	Annually	8.75	6.56	New Accounts no longer available	Half Yearly	1.00	0.75
£10,000-£24,999	Annually	8.25	6.19	Cheltenham Investment Accounts			
£25,000 or more	Monthly	8.42**	6.31	£25,000 or more	Annually	1.00	0.75
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Folk from Little Rock construct White House-in-waiting

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER
IN WASHINGTON

IN AN office near the Clinton headquarters in Little Rock, Arkansas, a dozen men and women have beavered away for weeks in self-imposed obscurity. Headed by Mickey Kantor, the campaign chairman, they are Mr Clinton's transition team.

If the Arkansas governor holds on to win tomorrow, the Clinton-Gore pre-transition planning foundation will place several fat briefing books on his desk first thing on Wednesday morning. These would map out how to set up an administration in 77 days, starting with the most important question: who should be appointed to what are some of the world's most powerful offices? For Democrats who have long languished in the political desert, there is no topic more absorbing. Washington has sold out of the "Plum Book", listing 3,000 posts under political patronage. The Clinton headquarters has been inundated with unsolicited CVs and telephone calls from Democrats.

There are old Carter hands tussling for the power they never thought could return, bright young things who have grown middle-aged waiting for another Democratic presi-

The Clinton government is taking shape. Members of a backroom team in Arkansas could soon find themselves among the most influential men and women in the world

dent, and all the FoBs (Friends of Bill), the thousands of contacts this ultimate "networker" has acquired from Georgetown, Oxford, Yale, Arkansas and ten years as an energetic governor.

Mr Clinton has also said he would appoint independents and Republicans. Jack Kemp, President Bush's free-thinking housing secretary, has been mentioned. Thomas Keen, former Republican governor of New Jersey, would be a possible education secretary.

Top prize is Secretary of State, and two names appear on everybody's slate. They are Warren Christopher, Jimmy Carter's former deputy Secretary of State, and Lee Hamilton of the House foreign affairs committee. A bolder choice would be Colin Powell, Mr Bush's chairman of the joint chiefs of staff, who is widely suspected of being a covert Democrat.

For the post of defence secretary, the smart money would be on Les Aspin, the chairman of the House armed services committee. Sam

Nunn, his Senate counterpart, or conceivably Dave McCurdy of Oklahoma, the youthful chairman of the House intelligence committee. Mr McCurdy's name is also mentioned as a possible CIA director, along with David Boren, chairman of the Senate intelligence committee, and Admiral William Crowe, Ronald Reagan's former chairman of the joint chiefs of staff who has endorsed Mr Clinton.

Treasury secretary contenders would include Mr Clinton's campaign advisers Roger Altman, an investment banker and the former assistant treasury secretary under Mr Carter, Robert Rubin, co-chairman of Goldman Sachs, and Felix Rohatyn, senior partner at Lazard Frères. Paul Volker, former chairman of the Federal Reserve, has been mentioned, and Lloyd Bentsen, who chairs the Senate finance committee, has reportedly put out feelers.

Speakeading Mr Clinton's White House economic and domestic policy teams would be the campaign's brains-trust



Tips for the top: Warren Christopher, left, and Colin Powell, are seen as rivals for Secretary of State, while Tom Foley is touted for ambassador to London and Barbara Jordan for the post of attorney-general

of Robert Reich, an old Oxford friend and Harvard lecturer; Rob Shapiro, of the campaign's unofficial think tank; Derek Shearer, a California economist and advocate of managed trade; Ira Magaziner, another old Oxford friend who is now a Rhode Island business consultant; and Bruce Reed, the issues director. Leon Panetta, chairman of the House budget committee, and Kent Conrad, a retiring senator, might also be roped in.

Senior aides such as Mickey Kantor, Betsy Wright, Mr Clinton's Arkansas chief of

staff, Eli Segal, his campaign chief of staff, George Stephanopoulos, Mr Clinton's communications director, and Dee Dee Myers, his press secretary, would probably fill comparable White House positions.

Mr Clinton's foreign policy advisers, Samuel Berger and Madeleine Albright, or the Carter State Department officials Richard Holbrooke and Anthony Lake, would be contenders for the post of National Security Adviser.

Women would be appointed to prominent positions. Paula Stern, past chairman of the

International Trade Commission, is tipped as trade representative. Barbara Jordan, the black Texas civil rights advocate, could become attorney-general. Hillary Clinton's friend Marion Wright Edelman, of the Children's Defence Fund, would be a strong contender for the post of secretary of health and human services.

There would be senior jobs for blacks. Kurt Schmoke, the mayor of Baltimore, would be an obvious choice as secretary of housing and urban development. Bill Gray, who left Congress to head the United

Negro College Fund, could become UN ambassador. Ron Brown, the Democratic party chairman, Vernon Jordan, former president of the National Urban League, and Maxine Waters, a congresswoman and campaign chief from inner Los Angeles, could expect senior positions.

Mr Clinton and the Rev Jesse Jackson are not friends but he would make the perfect chief of drugs policy. The leading Hispanic would probably be Henry Cisneros, former San Antonio mayor and possible commerce secretary. Mr Carter brought num-

ous Georgians to Washington from his home state. By contrast, few Arkansas figures prominently in the current speculation save Ms Wright and Bruce Lindsey, the campaign director. Former governor who has worked with Mr Clinton 40, Bruce Babbitt of Arizona might become energy secretary. James Blanchard of Michigan might become transport secretary, and Madeleine Kunin of Vermont head of the Environment Protection Agency. Tim Wirth, a jarring Colorado senator and environmentalist, would be the obvious choice as interior secretary.

Mr Clinton thinks Mario Cuomo, New York's eloquent governor, would be a superb Supreme Court justice. Bob Kerrey, the Vietnam hero who this year ran for the Democratic presidential nomination, might be compensated with the department of veterans affairs. Ray Seitz, being a career diplomat, might continue as ambassador in London, but Tom Foley, the anglophile House Speaker, has been touted for the job. Strobe Talbott of Time magazine, or Michael Mandelbaum, a foreign policy specialist both friends whom Mr Clinton met in England, could become the ambassador to Russia.

Candidates spit venom in scramble for votes

FROM JAMIE DETTMER IN WASHINGTON

GEORGE Bush and Bill Clinton swept across nine states over the weekend in an intense and acrimonious 11th hour scramble for votes as state-wide opinion polls suggested that the Democrat challenger still has a clear edge over the president, is well ahead in 16 states and leading in 15.

Although two national surveys published yesterday were at odds with the state polls and indicated that the race is tight, it appeared that Mr Clinton is entering the final 24 hours of the election better positioned than any Democrat candidate since Jimmy Carter in 1976. Both candidates unleashed a barrage of attacks on each

rating. He stands an outside chance of winning Alaska and Maine, both of which have elected independent governors in the recent past. In Florida, Mr Perot charged the President again with propping up Saddam Hussein in Iraq before the Gulf War and of being responsible for the rise of General Noriega, the former Panamanian dictator.

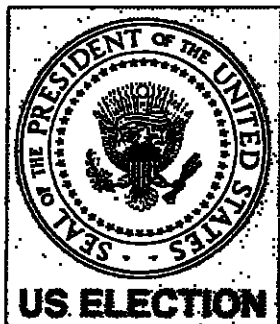
The most comprehensive survey this weekend of the state by state races, undertaken by *The Washington Post*, suggested that Mr Clinton is still on target to win tomorrow. According to the *Post*, Mr Clinton has a clear lead in 16 states and the district of Columbia that can provide all but 43 of the 270 electoral college votes needed for victory.

The Democrat has slight leads in another 15 states with 112 college votes. President Bush has an advantage only in nine states with 68 college votes and is neck-and-neck with Mr Clinton or slightly ahead of him in ten other states with 131 electoral votes.

Even so, the Clinton camp is jumpy, suffering from more than the normal jitters associated with the close of a presidential campaign. Much of its nervousness has been provoked by a couple of national surveys, one by Cable Network News and the other for ABC News, which suggests the Democrat has only a 3 per cent lead over Mr Bush. A *New York Times* poll, however, gives a sharply different picture. It indicates that Mr Clinton has come through the slump in his support last week with an increased lead of 9 per cent.

The task facing Mr Bush is daunting. He has improved his position in Florida, one of his "must win" states, but is still probably level with his Democrat opponent in Texas. His aides acknowledge that, if he loses the Lone Star state, he will lose the election.

Clinton holds to his lead, photograph, page 1
Bernard Levin, Anthony Howard, page 16
Diary, page 18
Business comment, page 38



other. Maintaining his tough rhetoric, President Bush strove to pin a "tax and spend" label on Mr Clinton and, while travelling by train through Wisconsin, hit out again at what he called his rival's "untrustworthy character." He repeatedly touched on the fear factor, saying his opponent was inexperienced.

"Close your eyes and imagine in a crisis situation an American leader totally without experience, completely untested," he told a crowd in Sussex, Wisconsin.

Governor Clinton met each bitter assault and accused the president of lying about his role in the Iran-Contra affair. He said Mr Bush was guilty of pandering to regional prejudices by altering his message, depending on where he was.

As the two main candidates stogged it out in the key states in the Northeast and Midwest, Ross Perot also took to the campaign trail in an effort to improve on his sagging



Casting votes: members of the sixth grade at the American School in London cheer as George Bush, alias Manhattan G. Perry, aged 12, wins a mock election by 16 votes to 11 for Bill Clinton (Chris Copland, 13). Ross Perot (A. J. Clancy, 12) received no votes at all. He voted for Bush

Clinton plays on role of good ol' Southern boy

Ben Macintyre sees the Democrat on the hustings in Decatur, Georgia

After a lengthy description of America's ills, Bill Clinton said: "The real thing that matters is not our yesterday. I ask you to think for a moment about tomorrow."

Twenty-three thousand supporters, packed into a high school sports stadium outside Atlanta, waved flags and cheered, but among his campaign staff — weary, elated but increasingly nervous with every new poll result — the remark prompted an exchange of meaningful glances. For more than a year, most of them have thought of nothing else but tomorrow, the day when America will finally decide whether Mr Clinton will be the next president or just another Democrat who failed to make the grade.

The Democratic candidate's last three-day campaign swing has been the most punishing yet, taking in Georgia, Iowa, Wisconsin, Kentucky, Ohio, Pennsylvania, Missouri, Texas, Michigan and New Mexico, each one a battleground state, representing in total 150 crucial electoral college votes.

Any trace of triumphalism or complacency has gone, replaced by a dogged and sometimes fatalistic determination. "We haven't lost yet," said one campaign aide, before correcting herself. "I mean we're not going to lose. I mean..." She trailed off. "I gotta get some sleep."

Saturday was Mr Clinton's day to bond with the middle class, beginning with breakfast and baby-kissing at the House of Pancakes in Decatur, just outside Atlanta, and ending in a Michigan bowling alley. In the morning a panacheful Mr Clinton and assorted Georgian Democratic dignitaries addressed a cheerful crowd at Decatur high school, in an atmosphere more reminiscent of a country fair. The crowd sang *Happy Birthday* to Minnie Foster, 101, and the loudspeakers blared John Lennon's *Power to the People*. On the podium, Mr Clinton played the good ol' Southern boy card for all it was worth, and in Georgia, it is worth a lot. "You can come from a little place

in the South and do good things," he told the crowd, in a voice that cracked, possibly from emotion, more probably from the throat strain that could render the candidate perfectly mute by tomorrow.

All three candidates in the race have developed a knack of slipping into obscure Southernisms, a tribute to the crucial role Southern voters will play in this election. Last week, for example, Mr Bush quoted Truman's 1948 remark that prophets of doom "didn't know how to pound sand in a rathole." It is not certain that Mr Bush knows how to do this either. Mr Clinton was not above appealing to the ancient animosities of the civil war. Keeping Mr Bush in charge of the economy, he said, was "like hiring General Sherman for fire commissioner in Georgia" — a reference to the Union general who put Georgia to the torch.

Mr Clinton bites his lower lip when he has made a particularly telling point of oratory. The effect on a trio of heavily coiffured Georgia belles, each one a Martha Maples in her own right, is nothing short of electric. "Ah just love that man," said one. "He can shake mah tree any time he wants."

Her friend, a symphony in pink jumpsuit and scarf, picked up the cue to repeat a favourite joke in these parts. "You heard the one about the Wizard of Oz? The candidates go to him and Bush asks for a heart. Quayle asks for a brain, and Clinton, he just asks for Dorothy." The Clinton plan now is to cover as much of America, as fast as possible, before tomorrow. "Our strategy?" Bruce Lindsey, the Clinton campaign director, said. "I can do that in five letters: T-O-W-N."

Bush adds tricks and treats to his rhetoric

Kate Muir follows the Republicans' campaign train to Oshkosh, Wisconsin

Hallowe'en in deepest Wisconsin. Trick or treat time for the American electorate. President Bush is riding the railways in the aptly named Spirit of America, trying to persuade adults in Batman and clown masks that what Bill Clinton, his Democratic rival, says is a low-down, mean, double-crossing trick.

The only thing going bump in the night in this hotly contested state is the sound of candidates' planes landing. No sooner did Mr Bush confirm that he would be making a whistle-stop train journey through Wisconsin, than Hillary Clinton popped up on a mini-tour of her own, and her husband appeared for a Hallowe'en night town-hall debate. Al Gore in his jetstream.

This marshy, flat, woody territory's 11 electoral votes have assumed an exaggerated importance since local newspaper polls show Mr Clinton barely clinging to a three-point lead. Mr Bush, who only three weeks ago looked and sounded like a loser, is puffing out his chest and strutting and waving from the back of his train in Truman style.

As the train passed through towns-with-no-name, men in lumberjack shirts and fluorescent baseball caps held up signs at sidings saying: "We trust Bush". Pre-coached crowds made a similar chant at stops along the way. At each siding, bad country music was played, after which Mr Bush hammered the same theme character.

"Who would ya trust with your family in a crisis? Who would ya trust with your country in a crisis? Which candidate has the character to merit the trust of the American people?" The crowd squealed in delight and waved. "In George we trust" and "Oshkosh trusts Bush by gosh" posters done in faux-childish felt-tip by the professional campaign organisers.

By the third stop Mr Bush was adding to his "trust in me, Barbara and God" line. A few rogue Demo-

crats in the Oshkosh crowd pulled signs out of their jackets which bore just one word: "Liar". "Clinton's called me a liar," said Mr Bush. "He's now latching on to these silly little charges and accusations in a desperate attempt to stop his freefall in the polls." He then repeated that he had told the truth under oath. Obviously, there was not quite enough trusting going on. Mr Bush was given an interview with Mr Bush in condition that Iran-Contra and supposed support for President Saddam Hussein of Iraq were not mentioned.

Despite the president's new-found confidence, there were still wobbles behind the scenes. But he was on a winning form. He got laughs for small jokes like: "Being attacked on character by Governor Clinton is like being called ugly by a frog."

Tommy Thompson, Wisconsin's Republican governor and a Bush family friend, said: "The president is tired. A few days ago he was miserable and had a head cold, but every time he sees a crowd he gets energised. He's hitting his stride. I've told his handlers he doesn't need coaching. The best person to sell the president is himself."

The president likes to sell the Gulf war. Four times he mentioned that moment in the Camp David chapel when he decided to start the ground battle. "And I remember praying — yes I do, and to does Barbara" — Rapturous applause. "Yes, we still say our prayers." More applause.

He indicated that only he could hold off the forces of darkness, if Clinton and "Osborne" [Gore] win, he said, "every day will be like Hallowe'en — fright and terror, witches and devils everywhere."

Campaign ad men peddle two of a kind

FROM KEVIN STELLER IN WASHINGTON

EVERY marketing man knows that the key to success is product differentiation. So the men behind American election campaigns naturally emphasise the differences between the candidates. President Bush, say his ad men, is trustworthy whereas his main rival is not. Bill Clinton, say his marketing gurus, can produce change and jobs whereas the incumbent cannot.

At times it is more sound than substance. Well, for this America is not Britain, where everyone chooses between candidates and parties that have real policy differences, between socialism and capitalism, between unilateral disarmament and a strong defence. In America, differences between the candidates are more matters of degree than of kind.

The new president will be under pressure to emphasise domestic issues. With the economy growing, but not at a pace that satisfies Americans, with unemployment at a politically unacceptable level and with a variety of social ills pressing upon them, Americans want their president to divert resources from foreign to domestic affairs. Whoever is elected will do just that.

Mr Bush wants to leave 150,000 American troops in Europe while Mr Clinton prefers only 100,000. But as one German official said: "Clinton has made clear he would continue the basic policy. Whether there are 50,000 American troops more or less doesn't make much difference now that the Cold War is over."

So, too, with trade policy. Mr Bush is more thoroughly committed to free trade, and Mr Clinton more likely to flirt with managed trade, but Mr Clinton has come out in favour of the North Atlantic Free Trade Agreement even though in a more protectionist form than that proposed by Mr Bush.

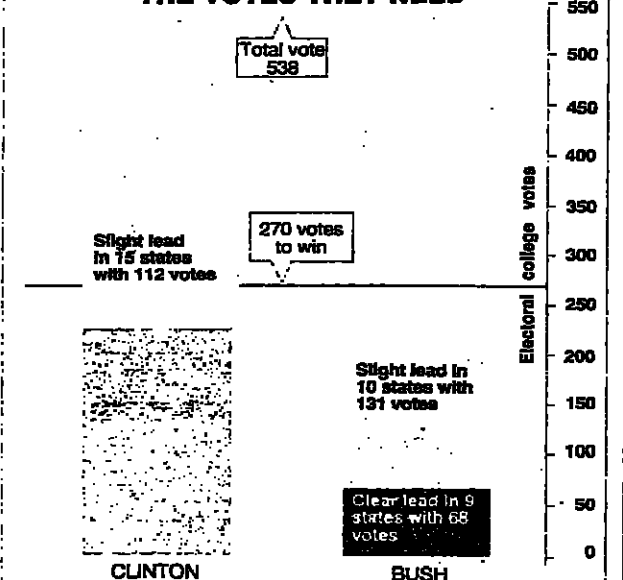
On the domestic front, both candidates favour some reform of the health care system; both favour some freedom for parents in choosing their children's schools; both remain insensitive to any problems that may be created by on-going budget deficits.

This is not to say that there are no differences: Mr Clinton leans towards governmentally directed solutions financed by taxes on the rich, and Mr Bush towards decentralised, individual decision making, financed primarily by tax credits. But these differences are as nothing compared to those that separate, say, a socialist Labour party that would nationalise utilities from a pro-privatisation Conservative party.

Perhaps most important from Britain's point of view, neither candidate poses a particular threat to the "special relationship" that has characterized British-American affairs for generations.

Dr Steller is a resident scholar at the American Institute in Washington DC. This is the last in a series of articles he has been contributing to *The Times* in the run-up to the American election.

THE VOTES THEY NEED



السلامة العامة

The Bill

The Onedin Line

Bread

Casualty

violence.
Drug abuse.
Death.
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of British
television, now
on satellite.

Existendens

The Bill, EastEnders. Casualty. Between them, they've tackled some difficult issues. Despite this, or perhaps because of it, they've become three of the most popular programmes of recent years. And now there's a chance to relive some of their finest hours (or half hours). Because yesterday saw the launch of a new satellite channel, UK Gold. It's a joint venture involving Thames Television and the BBC, and the programmes will be drawn from their libraries. So as well as the shows we've already mentioned, we'll have series like Bergerac, Bread and 'Allo 'Allo from the BBC. And French Fields, Rumpole of the Bailey and After Henry from Thames.

There'll be blockbuster movies at the weekends. And music shows late at night, alongside all kinds of other goodies.

The Goodies, for example, Three of a Kind and The Young Ones.

Is there anything that UK Gold won't be showing? Well, yes. There'll be no place for news, or current affairs, or sport.

By now, you're probably thinking that this kind of schedule is quite a departure for a satellite channel. And you'd be right. That's the idea. We're aiming UK Gold fairly and squarely at ABC1s.

For while most satellite owners are C2s, 33% of viewers are ABC1s.

Naturally, UK Gold should attract plenty of C2DEs as well. (And as we hardly need point out, you can now advertise during BBC programmes for the first time.)

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A ramble with the baroness

The German ambassador's wife is doing her bit to mend broken fences, Alice Thomson reports

The Princess of Wales has turned-in her Mercedes, the Queen was pelted with eggs in Dresden, Bomber Harris's statue has been sprayed with red paint, and the German ambassador, Baron Hermann von Richthofen, was called in for a dressing down by the Foreign Office for leaking a document from the Bundesbank. Anglo-German relations have been a little strained, to say the least, in the past few weeks.

In the middle of all this hullabaloo, Baroness Christina von Richthofen has quietly published a book called *Germany* (Weidenfeld and Nicolson, £30). It was written in English for the British market, but she hopes to publish it later in Germany. The press release calls it "a visual portrait of a united Germany that makes no mention of the Bundesbank". And that is exactly what it is — a nostalgic ramble among the cultural treasure troves of Germany. There are stunning pictures and the baroness writes lucidly of the German Renaissance, Baroque artistry

and Bauhaus and takes us on a tour of high Alps, graded forests and fairytale villages. But why has she chosen to publish the book now? "It was just as the Berlin wall came down that I had the idea. I wanted to point out that despite all the years of political and social difference, the east and west have a strong shared cultural heritage," she says. "At the same time I wanted to foster understanding between my own country and Britain. Also I was born in the east and was a child in the west. I wanted to return to the east to rediscover its charm."

Baroness von Richthofen is perched on a 19th-century sofa surrounded by opulent paintings of the Hanoverian Georges and Prussian generals. We are drinking tea out of a *Stovesschen* (a candle under a teapot to keep the tea warm) and eating German *Kuchen*. She is not wearing Escada, the German design so favoured by British politicians' wives, but she looks exceedingly chic in a swirling black skirt and royal blue jacket. She has the charm of a diplomatic wife of many years standing, but is also re-



Diplomatic view: Baroness von Richthofen believes current differences between Germany and Britain are superficial. "I feel these two nations are very close."

freshly sincere. "Just edit my funny English," she says, although her pronunciation is fluent. So how would she like the British to view the Germans? "All the world thinks that the Germans are very precise, hard-working and functional. But I am not a great believer in national characteristics. What holds a country together is its sense of culture and history."

Before writing the book, the baroness travelled all round the new Germany. *Kultur* has always been important to her. She was born in the then East Prussian town of Königsberg to a family which had been Baltic landowners since the early 17th century. After the

war her widowed mother fled with her seven children to Brandenburg, leaving everything behind except the books and piano. "My favourite period of architecture is the neo-classical period — which was very much influenced by the British," the baroness says. "In literature I am a great Romanticist. It was a happy time for Germany. But my favourite author must be Thomas Mann."

She is sensitive about Germany's chequered past and wants to reassure the rest of Europe. "We would never have fought for a united Germany, but when it came it was like a gift from heaven," she says. The growing immigration problem in Germany concerns her. "I am so split. My heart says what a pity if we can't let all these people in. After the war we made so many people seek asylum, the least we can do is show solidarity with refugees now. But my mind says we must find a balance. Half a million refugees will come into Germany this year."

She is also perturbed by the recent race riots, but believes they are caused by a tiny minority of people. "The majority of Germans are only worried about new immigrants because they are concerned about losing their jobs and their standard of living. In Nazi times it was different. People were xenophobic and racist. They wanted Jews and foreigners out even though the country was doing well."

We move on to the question of the European Community. While the British are struggling over Maastricht and even the French have had qualms about Europe, the Germans appear relatively calm. "I think it is easier for Germany," she says. "East Germans feel European ideologically. It is something they dreamed about for years, while West Germans have always linked the EC with progress and a flourishing economy. They are not worried deep in their souls like the British."

The years the von Richthofens have been in Britain, with their three children have been "the happiest of my life", according to the baroness. She has a postgraduate degree in psychology and works as a psychologist at the Maudsley hospital in south London. Apart from the slight controversy about the letter her husband was said to have leaked the Bundesbank's refusal of criticism of its role in Britain's departure from the exchange-rate mechanism, their stay has been characterised by the baroness's desire to "deepen Anglo-German friendship and trust".

For diplomatic reasons, the baroness cannot discuss the supposedly leaked document, although she does say that it has not soured relations with

the Foreign Office. Nor can she talk about the noted absence of cabinet ministers from the recent German National Day celebrations at the embassy (she was not there). But how does she feel about the recent breakdown in communications between the two countries?

"I have seen the animosity in the papers, but I have had nothing but warmth and understanding from people I have met. I feel these two nations are very close and these current differences are superficial." In fact, the baroness believes that the average German is a "close Anglophile". "German people like British traditions and are full of admiration for your style. English is a much easier language for the Germans to understand than French. We have also been close northern allies for many generations."

She was initially sad when the statue of Bomber Harris was erected. "But then I realised that the history of the British was quite different from ours and that this was a statue in honour of the families who lost pilots in the war." She feels differently about the V-2 celebrations in Germany. "I think that was tactless," she says and believes that Helmut Kohl, the German chancellor, was right not to attend. Her husband is the great-

nephew of the Red Baron, the legendary German ace of the first world war. Would she like a statue of him in Germany? "No. In Germany we have become very anti-militaristic. The only statues we have in our towns are angels of peace now."

She was next to the Queen on her visit to Dresden and did not see any eggs fly. "That was all pears. The Dresden people might have been more silent than other towns, but it wasn't a chilly silence. The Queen enabled Dresdeners to lay to rest the past and head towards the future." The royal family plays a large role in the German psyche, according to the baroness. She "adored" the tour and gave the Queen the first copy of her book.

The von Richthofens must out-anglophile all German Anglophiles. "You say we are more efficient but everything I see here works well... You have wonderful theatre and opera... The food is good too and everyone is more relaxed," the baroness says.

As she is talking, MPs half a mile away from the Belgraveia embassy are far from relaxed as they grapple with the recession. Baroness von Richthofen believes that the British are strong enough to pull through. "The British are too hard on themselves. They think they are the only ones with problems but they are still doing well compared to much of Europe." She smiles blankly when the Bundesbank is mentioned and says she is a passive newspaper reader, not a political animal at all.

Nationwide's new rates for accounts no longer available to new investors.

From 2nd November 1992

Former Nationwide Bond Accounts			
Account Name	Balance	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
PrestigeBond	£1,000-£4,999	6.80%	5.10%
	£5,000-£9,999	7.10%	5.35%
	£10,000-£24,999	7.40%	5.55%
	£25,000-£49,999	7.60%	5.70%
	£50,000 and over	7.80%	5.85%
PrestigeBond Plus	£1,000-£4,999	7.00%	5.25%
	£5,000-£9,999	7.30%	5.45%
	£10,000-£24,999	7.60%	5.70%
	£25,000-£49,999	7.80%	5.85%
	£50,000 and over	8.00%	6.00%
ClassicBond	£1,000-£4,999	7.00%	5.25%
	£5,000-£9,999	7.40%	5.70%
	£10,000-£24,999	7.60%	5.90%
	£25,000-£49,999	7.80%	6.05%
	£50,000 and over	8.00%	6.20%
ClassicBond Plus	£1,000-£4,999	7.20%	5.40%
	£5,000-£9,999	7.60%	5.85%
	£10,000-£24,999	7.80%	6.00%
	£25,000-£49,999	8.00%	6.20%
	£50,000 and over	8.20%	6.35%
CapitalBond 92	£3,000-£4,999	6.50%	5.15%
	£5,000-£9,999	7.00%	5.60%
	£10,000-£24,999	7.40%	6.00%
	£25,000-£49,999	7.80%	6.25%
	£50,000 and over	8.20%	6.50%
Former Nationwide Anglia - Other Accounts			
Account Name	Balance	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
CapitalBond	£1 and over	6.30%	4.75%
1st Issue	£1 and over	6.30%	4.75%
2nd Issue	£1 and over	6.30%	4.75%
Prestige Bond	£1 and over	6.60%	4.95%
1st Issue	£1 and over	6.60%	4.95%
2nd Issue	£1 and over	6.60%	4.95%
3rd Issue	£1 and over	6.60%	4.95%
PlatinumBond	£1 and over	8.20%	6.15%
1st Issue	£1 and over	8.20%	6.15%
2nd Issue	£1 and over	8.20%	6.15%
Former Nationwide Anglia - Other Accounts			
Account Name	Balance	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
Deposit Account	£1 and over	1.30%	0.90%
Share Account	£1 and over	1.50%	1.10%
CashBooster	£1 and over	1.50%	1.10%
BonusBuilder	£1-£999	1.50%	1.10%
	£1,000-£9,999	3.00%	2.25%
	£10,000-£24,999	3.50%	2.60%
	£25,000-£49,999	4.00%	3.00%
	£50,000 and over	5.00%	3.75%
CapitalBonus 180	£500-£9,999	5.00%	3.75%
	£10,000-£24,999	5.50%	4.10%
	£25,000-£49,999	6.00%	4.50%
	£50,000 and over	6.50%	4.80%
CapitalBonus 90	£500-£9,999	4.50%	3.35%
	£10,000-£24,999	5.00%	3.75%
	£25,000-£49,999	5.50%	4.10%
	£50,000 and over	6.00%	4.50%
Former Anglia Building Society Accounts			
Account Name	Balance	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
Capital 30	£500 and over	4.20%	3.15%
Capital 90	£500-£9,999	4.80%	3.60%
	£10,000 and over	5.80%	4.35%
Capital Plus	£10,000-£19,999	5.60%	4.20%
	£20,000 and over	5.80%	4.35%
Monthly Savings	£1-£200 p.m. (or £600 p.m.)	1.60%	1.20%
TopSaver	£1 and over	2.50%	1.80%
Junior Savings	£1 and over	1.50%	1.10%
Former Nationwide Building Society Accounts			
Account Name	Balance	Gross p.a.	Net p.a.
Bonus 7	£100 and over	2.40%	1.95%
Super Bonus	£200 and over	2.85%	2.14%
Double Bonus	£500 and over	3.50%	2.60%
Bonus 90	£200-£9,999	4.50%	3.25%
	£10,000-£24,999	5.00%	3.75%
	£25,000 and over	5.50%	4.10%
Plus Account	£1-£999	1.00%	0.75%
Plusbook	£1,000 and over	1.80%	1.35%
Cashlink Accounts	£1-£999	1.00%	0.75%
	£1,000 and over	1.80%	1.35%
Subscription Share	£1-£200 p.m. (or £600 p.m.)	2.80%	2.10%

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Go East, young woman

An American is hoping to take contraceptive choice to Russia

Merle Hoffman came back from a recent trip to Russia triumphantly clutching an open letter to Boris Yeltsin that she had persuaded Russian feminists to write ("there are a handful of them"). The letter demands immediate allocations of hard currency for buying modern contraceptives, and funds for up-to-date equipment and medicine to make abortion as safe as possible.

In New York, Ms Hoffman runs the Choices medical centre — "the largest, state-of-the-art, women's medical centre in the United States" — which offers Well Woman examinations, gynaecological services, a complete screening service for women and a rape counselling unit. After her trip to Russia, Ms Hoffman hopes to be able to offer the same services there, at reasonable prices, at a centre called Choices East.

Ms Hoffman's credo, which she chants like a litany, is that "abortion is the bottom line and the front line and the fundamental issue for women's autonomy in the Western world". But in Russia, where abortion remains the form of birth control most easily available, she discovered that it is an oppression. She was inspired to visit the country after treating a Russian woman who had had 35 abortions by the age of 35.

The Moscow centre, to be set up within two years, according to Ms Hoffman, in equal partnership with the

Russians, will introduce Russian women to other types of contraception. In the Forest Hills centre in New York, 20,000 abortions are performed each year. The operations cost \$300-\$1,000, depending on length of gestation. (The fees of poorer women are met by Medicaid insurance provided by New York, one of only six states to offer it since cuts in 1977.)

The cost is a far cry from the \$3 charged in Moscow, concedes Ms Hoffman. "Hardly more than the cost of a McDonald's hamburger there. If I wanted to make money I'd open up in Manhattan, not Moscow. One Russian suggested I might like to open a clinic for the elite, but I said I wouldn't do that. I said those who could afford to pay might pay a higher fee to subsidise those who couldn't."

Ms Hoffman, who founded the New York Pro-Choice Coalition and organised a "pro-choice" civil disobedience action on the steps of St Patrick's Cathedral which resulted in the arrests of nine women, is scathing about the "right-to-life" for using similar aggressive tactics. Choices is regularly patrolled by Roman Catholic clergy, who bring their flock to pray for her soul.

Recently in Britain an organisation called the Post Abortion Counselling Service (PACS) did a survey of 300 women it had counselled after abortions, plus more than a thousand who had contacted



Merle Hoffman: birth control for Russian women

it, and suggested that, as PACS organiser Ruth Caleb puts it, "abortion continues to cause psychological problems for some women up to ten, and in some cases, 20 years later". Such arguments anger Ms Hoffman. "To make that meaningful you'd have to compare it with all the studies of depression after childbirth, and the emotional problems mothers experience," she says. "Why isn't counselling considered necessary to prepare women for the trauma of childbirth, which is nine times more dangerous than an abortion carried out during the first trimester?"

Her view is supported in Britain by the Family Planning Association, which believes, according to its spokeswoman Ruth Grigg, that "those who feel a sense of relief after an abortion are far

more numerous than those who need counselling".

There is "only one choice" in tomorrow's American election, as far as Ms Hoffman is concerned, and that is to vote for "pro-choice" Bill Clinton. "I see our right to abortion declared the constitutional right of every American woman 20 years ago in the *Roe v Wade* decision — gradually being eroded so that now it hangs by a thread."

If Russia and America spent a fraction of what they spend on the space race on trying to control the procreation of the human race, Ms Hoffman feels, women would be much better off. In the meantime, she will continue to fight "for women's right to make even the wrong choices".

VICTORIA MCKEE

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Voyage in Milan: from the Dolce e Gabbana collection, where *The Onedin Line* meets Chinese embroidery

When Domenico Dolce and Stefano Gabbana, the Italian design team, more simply known as Dolce e Gabbana, set down at their drawing boards to create their Autumn-Winter collections (their own label, and one for Complice), I think their heads were full of television. Hours must have been spent watching re-runs of *The Onedin Line* — the 19th-century saga of a Liverpool shipping family and of ship's master James Onedin with his salty sea-dog crew, and their adventures as they circumnavigated the globe, returning home with bolts of sumptuous fabric, trinkets and tales from strange and wonderful lands.

For the Victorian sailor, the world was a vast and scary place, full of new and exciting experiences. For the experienced fashion fan, the collections of Domenico and Stefano are equally gripping, full of incongruous cultural references drawn together and woven into the very seams of the clothes they design. This season is no exception.

Their show in Milan was a voyage, starring an upright, strictly dressed ship's captain (no longer called James, but answering to Naomi, Linda, Christy and Tatjana) in her smart, tightly-fitted suit, worn with a starched white shirt and black tie, sometimes in the form of a more ladylike bow tied at the throat of an unbuttoned collar. As her travels continued, so she picked up souvenirs of the journey along the way — strings of coloured beads, garlands of flowers, Chinese embroideries and tiny Indian mirrors, all worked on to the surface of wool and flannel, adding pattern and texture to otherwise severe-looking fabrics.

This image of the Victorian sea-farer has shaped the nautical-inspired look so prevalent this winter. Although we are perhaps more familiar with a naval invasion on the beaches during the summer — jaunty matelot stripes, wide Deauville pants, and masses of blue and

white — it is a darker, more dramatic interpretation which will be seen inland over the coming months.

Darkest navy, almost black, provides the perfect melodramatic mood for the strong silhouettes central to the look. Shapely jackets and coats, masterfully double buttoned across the body, are abbreviated into short, boxy mess jackets, or take their line from fitted frock coats which fall from the waist into swirling circular hems.

For the more showy, gilt buttons sit two by two down the front of an officer's dress jacket. The contour is further enhanced by often oversized lapels, and spiky collars which, upturned, frame the face.

The warm-looking, more traditional blazers, reefer jackets and overcoats share the same styling, and although less extreme can easily lend themselves to the look, given a fashionable facelift by adding a few theatrical touches: a plain white handkerchief worn as a bow tie; or wire-edged ribbon twisted into a flamboyant cravat; or rows of ruffles spilling from an open jacket. Even more fanciful, a waspie tight-laced corset worn over the same shirt emerges from the waistband, adding a sexy curve and raising the waistline of a pair of tasteful gabardine trousers.

Top the lot with a nautical cap reminiscent of Garbo and Dietrich, worn off kilter, pulled low over one eye. Choose between an authentic Breton sailor's cap, or a slouchier Baker Boy style, which can be dressed up by sewing on a handful of gold buttons, an idea the Dolce e Gabbana boys take to the extreme, covering entire collars and cuffs in the same way, or dotting nautical badges at random over another suit.

And remember, the basis of the look, beneath the costume drama, is useful jackets and coats, fashionable enough to carry you through the season but classic enough to keep.

Right: Navy cropped wool jacket from Paul Costelloe's Dressage range, £172.50, available from Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1; Brown Thomas, Grafton St, Dublin; Andy Hanson, 54 The Grove, Hildesley, W Yorkshire. Navy gabardine trousers, £84, from Jigsaw, 31 Brompton Road, SW3 and branches nationwide. White ruffle shirt by Monix (081-531 6622 to order), £49.99. Black wool cap by Kangol for Jigsaw, £18, available from Jigsaw (as before). Black ankle boots, £95.50, from Russell & Bromley, 24-25 New Bond Street, W1. Black corset from a selection by Knickerbox available from branches nationwide. White wired ribbon (at neck) from department stores nationwide.

With a pinch of salt

Dolce e Gabbana's dark and dramatic seafaring theme (left) is the inspiration for a winter of contemplating the naval. Iain R. Webb reports



Above: Navy double-breasted fitted coat by George Reck, £255, from George Reck Boutique, 181-182 Sloane St, SW1; Whites, 17 West Park, Harrogate, Yorkshire. Navy knit skirt, £202; cream crepe shirt, £252, both by George Reck from his boutique, also from Harrods, Knightsbridge, SW1; Jules, 54 Acorn Road, Jesmond, Newcastle. Navy Breton cap, £16.45, from The Hat Shop, 58 Neal Street, WC2; 18 St Christopher's Place, W1; 30 Wilson Street, Glasgow. Cream silk evening scarf, £70, from Aquascutum, 100 Regent Street, W1. Black ankle boots, £185, from Russell & Bromley (as before). Black "Liquid Touch" tights from The Sock Shop. Black ribbon (at neck) from department stores.

Left: Cream jacket with gilt buttons, £249, from Joseph, 26 Sloane Street, SW1; 28 Brook Street, W1; 77 Fulham Road, SW3. White (man's) dress shirt, £52, from Aquascutum (as before). Cream wool cap by Kangol for Jigsaw, £18, from Jigsaw (as before). White handkerchief (at neck) from department stores nationwide.

Pictures: Martyn Thompson. Hair/make-up: Ruth Funnell

Step forward for bespoke

HOT LINE

BESPOKE shoes sound like a thing of the past, but all things of good quality and style they are slowly coming back. The shoe designers brothers Aydin and Ali Kurdash offer a made-to-order service, from £160 at the shop Gina, 42 Sloane Street, SW1.

They do not make your own last, a service that would cost £400 but offer a range of styles, heels, toe shapes, fabrics — suede, satin, velvet, brocade (or leather) and more. The service already includes Norma Major and the designer Catherine Walker. Edelstein and Antony Fitch are among its clients.

Gina stocks its own collection of shoes as well as shoes by Norma Hope and Jimmy Choo — the only retail outlet for Choo.

Ye are a gent

HACKETT, the gentleman's outfitter, has opened a new flagship store. The store will continue to sell the traditional range of menswear for which Hackett is famous — classic country clothes through to full evening dress — but the range of merchandise has been expanded to include outerwear, sportswear and accessories.

Hackett will offer a new service of bespoke suiting from its in-house tailoring department — with prices starting from approximately £800 — as well as an extensive selection of off-the-peg suits including navy or grey chalk stripe two-piece suits at £455. Its collection of country clothes has been extended to include rubberised cotton coats, quilted muleskin paddock jackets, shooting coats and warm,



Inside story: Gina, where the Kurdash brothers offer a made-to-order service

chunky handknit sweaters. The accessories collection includes wallets, photograph frames, stud boxes and travel shaving sets. The best thing in the new shop is the traditional barbers on the first floor — recover from shopping with a facial massage, £4.50, a traditional wet shave, £7.50 or a wash and cut, £14, and stock up with a range of grooming accessories including after-shave and hair gel.

Little gem

JANET FITCH, the former fashion journalist and constant supporter of young, up and coming designers, opened her second shop on Friday in the heart of London's Soho. Following the theme of her first shop in

Percy Street, W1, the new shop will be a showcase of jewellery, fashion and objects.

On display will be Michael De Nardo's eclectic silver and chrome objects, Jennifer Corker's classical working of verdigris and freshwater pearls and Sian Evans's delicate silver pieces.

New designers will be represented by Helen Feller, with her seashore-inspired jewellery, along with Julia Cook's work using glass, silver and gems and Lil Gardner and Janette Swift's ingenious use of antique beads and plastic.

Fashion accessories will include wonderful velvet scarves by Georgina von Etzdorf, belts by David Smith and bags by Lulu Guinness.

Janet Fitch's book *The Art*

and Craft of Jewellery (Mitchell Beazley, £14) has been published to coincide with the opening of the shop at 25 Old Compton Street, London W1.

Last words

ANOTHER bespoke shoe service is being offered by Oliver Sweeney. Already well known for his brogues, Oxfords and loafers for men, he is now producing slippers for men and women — perfect for the lounge lizard but built to withstand pavements. Choose from four fabrics, black ottoman, oval brocade and floral brocade in either black or biscuit at £125. Exclusively from 4th Floor Hairdressers in London, 071 405 6011.

SARAH NEWTON

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* Please bring along this advertisement to claim your gift.



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Matthew Parris

■ **Television trades dishonestly on images it pretends are 'real life' illustrations**

On television the other night I watched one of those extended news reports in which a short "background" documentary takes you "behind the news" to study a single item in a little depth. The news was of bankruptcies and slump and a reporter took us to a small factory facing the recession somewhere in the South-East. It was probably Essex, and probably Basildon, television editors being the imaginative creatures they are. The factory was struggling to survive. This was a lucky coincidence for the editor, as it happened to be the theme of his news report: and — another stroke of good luck — what the managing director said seemed to bear out the presenter's script. The headline had been about a survey just published, suggesting that many small businesses were in trouble. The presenter had offered to take us into the heartlands of Thatcherite England to investigate for ourselves. The first, and only, "real life" example we stumbled upon conformed to the headline. In some half-sense, never quite articulated, we were given to understand that the assertion had been proved, or at least supported. Now let me tell you a story...

Have you ever walked through a door and up the stairs, stood at the bedroom window and drawn the curtains, on television? Ten years ago, Granada's *World in Action* taught me how it's done.

A cameraman, a sound man, a producer and an assistant taking notes stand outside the door and film you walking up, grasping the door knob, opening it and going in. It requires many takes before they get everything right in one go.

Then they all move through the door and reposition themselves inside. A lighting technician joins them. They close the door. You wait outside. When the producer shouts "Go!" you repeat the exercise, this time being filmed coming in. It needs a number of takes. After that, everyone swivels round for a shot of your disappearing back as you walk up the stairs. Just a couple of takes secures this.

Then they all troop out again. Waiting is one of those huge cantilevering lorries capable of lifting a platform 20 feet into the air. Local councils use them for repairing street lights. This one has been specially hired. The cameraman gets onto the platform and is lifted to the height of the first-floor bedroom window, his purpose being to get an eye-level shot from outside the window — of you inside, drawing the curtains.

He is raised into the air. From the ground the producer shouts instructions, including another "Go!" you repeat the exercise. This complicated show for which many takes are required, needs time: but in the end the producer is satisfied, the cameraman is lowered to earth, and the whole team assembles for coffee, exhausted, by the lorry. The producer has the five seconds he wanted for this sequence. It has taken the better part of the morning.

The episode I've just recounted took place in Newcastle. I was a Tory MP helping *World in Action* make a programme about a Tory MP trying to live on the dole for a week. The programme was made with a degree of integrity which (I later learnt) was unusual in the television business: yet how contrived something which looked to (viewers) quite real had to be! Whether, at times like this, I was the Tory MP, or whether I was an actor playing the part of the Tory MP, is a pertinent question.

The contrivance, here, was technical: but what of the programme's "message", which emerged as being that existence on state benefit was a wretched affair, as a Tory MP had been forced to find out for himself?

I would not assert that if life on the dole had proved a doddle, *World in Action* would have been less interested in making the programme: only that causing a Tory MP to squirm and suffer is undoubtedly better television. I realised this a few days into my week, when I also realised that, paradoxically, I would emerge with more credit if I came out hanging my head in shame. So, though I had suggested spending mornings reading and learning in a free, warm public library, and though we recorded footage of an afternoon spent long-distance running (also free), I was not surprised when neither of these ideas was used. Nor did I object. Better to go with the grain. I managed to run out of coins for the electricity meter on my last day. The show was a great success and almost made my reputation. I never looked back. The unemployed people I met in Newcastle are still there.

But what did I prove? And what did that factory in Basildon prove? What is the status of television documentary evidence?

When a Boeing 707 crashes, they show you a picture of an aeroplane (though not usually that one) while they are telling you about what happened. This is not meant as proof that there was a crash, or that there are Boeings. The picture is illustrative.

When the *On the Record* producers want to discover what people think of John Major, they may commission a poll. The poll is intended to prove (or at least support) an assertion, and may do so. The report is probatory.

But that wicket factory in Basildon: was it probatory or illustrative? I put it to you, and to the television industry, that it was in fact only illustrative, but that it might have seemed to carry with it an unspoken probatory claim; that some viewers would have been confused as to whether it did; and that the industry trades dishonestly upon their confusion.

Television editors will protest that viewers know enough to know that real-life cases put before them are no more than "for instance" examples, selected to reinforce a point of view. Maybe so. But has the assumption been tested? Maybe viewers do know that a researcher is dispatched not to find out whether something is true, but to find somebody to say it is true. If so, fine. But if, as I suspect, many viewers are unaware of this, let me put the following question. There are two meanings to the word "show". I could show you a business in trouble, or I could show you that business is in trouble. Which was it, please, in Basildon?

Trust is making a late show against change in the US election, but probably too late, says Anthony Howard

Duel of the magic words

It has been a curious presidential election. Seldom until the last days strong on suspense, there was nevertheless always an air of mystery about it. Even the pundits now proclaim that they had an uneasy feeling all along that there might be a final twist to the plot.

There is probably, though, a more mundane explanation for the scare the Democrats have had in the campaign's closing days. They chose to fight the election not on any ideology but on the magic of a single word: "change". The difficulty with "change" is that it generally looks far more attractive when glimpsed from afar than it does close up. Anyone who has moved house knows that.

"Trust", the buzz word that dominated the president's campaign, has the opposite impact. Static, even boring when viewed from a distance, it can acquire more emotive vibrations once the need to make a decision approaches. In an election that has been a battle over the rival pulling power of two very different words, the president was always bound to pick up strength in the last lap.

What, though, of Ross Perot, the wild card throughout this campaign? If neither main candidate ever quite captured the imagination of the American people, there was a moment last summer when it seemed possible that this bizarre Texan billionaire might do so. Fortunately for the survival of the two-party system, he displayed an unfailing capacity to shoot himself in the foot.

Mr Perot, though, remained the spectre at the two-party feast to the end. His performance was all the more impressive, since he remains in himself a faintly absurd figure: the kind of voluble talker normally found driving a New York taxi, relentlessly using his passengers as a captive audience for his views on every topic under the sun.

Yet this year Mr Perot plainly fulfilled some need in the mind of the electorate. A born populist he easily assumed the mantle of being the pedlar of disenchant-

ment with the entire political system. In that sense he was always a more powerful threat to Bill Clinton than he was to the president, if only because their messages were addressed to the same constituency. The Democratic candidate's task of spreading a gospel of confidence and hope was not made easier by having a third-party candidate preaching doom and gloom. But at least the Clinton campaign was delivered from what only a fortnight ago was its nightmare: the prospect that Mr Perot might actually overtake the president in the polls.

Now, for the first time, Mr Clinton has to look another bleak prospect in the face — that, despite all his best efforts in maintaining a commanding poll lead from July to the end of October, he could be about to lose his race to President Bush after all. In personal terms that would rank as what the Americans call "cruel and unusual

punishment": one could understand the edgy temper the Democratic candidate has displayed in recent days. After one early morning jogging outburst last week, in which he called the president a liar, a spokeswoman was reduced to explaining that the candidate had "got out of bed the wrong side, there's no more to it than that".

Of course, all presidential campaigns get jittery towards the end and it is probably a mistake to read too much into the tensions that have suddenly surfaced in the Clinton camp. The ferocity of the personal attacks launched by the Republicans clearly knocked them off balance, and only the gift-from-heaven of the Casper Weinberger notes on the president's role in the Iran arms-for-hostages affair did something over the weekend to restore equilibrium. Inarguable is not, however, an issue that the Democrats have exploited much in this election.

because its complexities were thought to defy easy exposition. That Mr Clinton should now be using it to assail the president's credibility is vivid proof that the Democrats acknowledge the agenda has shifted. If nothing else, the Republicans can claim to have made their key word, "trust", the dominant theme at the end of the campaign.

Will that achievement be enough to bring their man home from behind tomorrow? The arithmetic of the electoral college, with its winner-take-all rule in every individual state, still seems to make that outcome unlikely. But perhaps because there was always something hollow at the heart of the Clinton campaign — image where there should have been ideology, slogans in place of doctrine, conciliation instead of conviction — it remains feasible. The president, who for months looked like a politician who had run not just out of time but out

of ideas too, has not fought an intellectually exciting campaign. Yet, like the hedgehog, Mr Bush may have known at least one important thing. Somehow he seems to have sensed that, faced with the choice, this generation of Americans would prefer stability to upheaval, dullness to dynamism. He marketed himself as the merchant of reassurance.

Given that he has had to fight for selection against a backdrop of economic discontent, that may still not be enough to save Mr Bush. But he has certainly ended up giving the candidate of "change" a fright, a bigger one than seemed possible when, just ten days ago, Governor Clinton rashly embarked on his "victory roll" around the Rocky Mountain states. And that perhaps has been the other factor gnawing away at the Democratic candidate's support. Voters on both sides of the Atlantic have acquired a nasty habit of turning round and taking it out on candidates they suspect of taking too much for granted. Perhaps Mr Clinton should have spared a moment for a quiet word with Mr Kinnock.

What a way to run an election

Bernard Levin
sees a political system dragged down by its electoral style

The American presidential election is now only a day away. And first things first: the election-night party, which the incumbent ambassador always throws, is invariably one of the finest shenanigans in all the four years; indeed, I believe that the *Four-Year Diary* found in good stationers was produced in response to the knowledge that so many people were afraid to forget the date.

In one room, there is a screen on which you can see the returns coming in; in the other rooms there are all one's friends and infinite quantities of the where-withal for browsing and sluicing to one's heart content. No gatecrashers, please: you must present your card of invitation, and park your gun in the receptacle provided.

That said, I am sorry to have to say something much less complimentary about the American electoral system; several things, really. First is the almost unbelievable idiosyncrasy of the length of the campaign: including the primaries, it runs all but a year. (As it happens, I have been taking a tiny part, transatlantically, in this election — my fax machine sometimes gets red hot — so I have had a seat in the stands, even though the stands were thousands of miles away.)

Now I know that the United States is a large country, and that there are very many hands to be shaken, but, particularly if an incumbent president is running, the country comes to a complete halt for the length of the campaign. Moreover, presidential candidates are so desperate not to say anything they can be held to that the country takes a year to thaw out, whoever wins. (I always wondered why the Russians didn't invade America half way through the campaign; perhaps they did but nobody took any notice.)

In this country, and all the countries with which I am familiar, not only is the entire election over in a matter of a few weeks, but by the end of the few

weeks we are all — British, French, Italian, German — gibbering with boredom and praying that the Russians would invade, if only to stop us all going crazy. Britain, I believe, has the shortest purgatory, yet I have never met anybody in the last week of the campaign, however passionate for one side or another, who did not wish to murder a few politicians before themselves jumping, well-weighted, into the river.

The next charge is considerably more grave. I believe that there is no fully democratic country in the world with a smaller percentage of turnout in its elections than the United States. There have been presidential elections in recent years which recorded a turnout barely over half the eligible voting population. No doubt the horrors of the campaign have so driven the voters to distraction that the very idea of voting is dreadful, but that is not a sufficient excuse. I am sure that

the more civic-minded citizens of America are ashamed of those who cannot even bother to make a cross on a slip of paper, particularly because some don't even have to do that much, for in many states they vote by pulling a handle. (The more unsophisticated wait after doing so, in case they have hit the jackpot and silver dollars cascade into the polling booth.)

As for the money candidates spend, it beggars belief, and assuredly beggars many a hopeful candidate, too. From time to time there have been attempts to limit the sums spent on elections, and there is even legislation in force, but it makes no difference. And one proof that it makes no difference is the astounding fact — so astounding that we could be discussing a brutal totalitarian regime rather than the largest democracy in the world — that apart from members of the House of

Representatives who voluntarily retire, 95 per cent are re-elected, and much the same goes for the Senate. That is to say, it is almost impossible for an outsider to eject a sitting member, so heavy are the doors of money and so firmly are they shut. (I know one wealthy candidate in this election who is running on a ticket which would smash the system and break the power of money, his opponent is so bewildered at the thought of a rich man campaigning against money that she can only stand on her head and denounce him as trying to buy the election.)

The last and worst charge against the American way of election is the almost unbelievable puerility that has come close to drowning the arguments entirely. Before I get to the presidential race, let me give a single instance in which you can see to what Olympic heights American politicians can rise in their politicking. In Ohio, the former astronaut John Glenn is

fighting against Mike DeWine for the Senate. Hear the hon-eyed words which Mr Glenn showers on his opponent: "One of the dirtiest, filthiest campaigns I have ever seen... a drumbeat of lies and lies and lies...". To which Mr DeWine replies even more charmingly by putting a picture of Mr Glenn on television and putting beside it the picture of a notorious swindler and thief.

But of course it is the presidential contest that has so degraded the entire democratic system, and it is in the staff of this hapless president that the combination of stupidity and smearing is seen at its most lurid. Imagine the quality of those boneheads who had the State Department search Mr Clinton's student days for anything they could turn into dirt, and when they found that he had opposed the Vietnam war and might have smoked a joint a quarter of a century ago thought they could damage

him. Not content with that, they found a bosomy lady to whom he was supposed to have been close, or even too close; that, too, the clowns that Mr Bush hired thought would be enough to damage him or even ruin him.

And this has been going on for months on end; meaningless, irrelevant, infantile jabber has filled the place where the issues should have been argued out. No wonder that the ludicrous Mr Perot could actually get many column inches in newspapers and air-time on television, by claiming that Mr Bush had somehow faked the wedding pictures of Mr Perot's daughter in order to smear her with being already pregnant.

"The last, best hope of all mankind" fails, at any rate at election time, to rise to the occasion; indeed, it sinks out of occasion's sight. Well, there is nothing to complain about in its election night party. Unless, of course, my harsh words have had my invitation withdrawn.

Whipping boys

TORY WHIPS are leaving no stone unturned in their attempts to shore up the Maas-tricht vote on Wednesday. Having tried and failed to bring anti-Europeans back into the fold, Tory whips and Central Office apparatchiks have resorted to telephoning MPs' constituency offices to try to persuade them to bring pressure to bear. The tactic, which has led to a flurry of weekend meetings between the MPs and their association officers, is having mixed results. Some MPs in marginal seats are believed to have wobbled when the call came through from their chairmen. Nij Deva in Brentford and Isleworth, for example, is believed to be having second thoughts, though earlier this year the MP wrote to Richard Ryder, chief whip, saying: "The Maas-tricht corpse will not walk again."

The technique has merely served to stiffen the resolve of other rebels. Sir Ivan Lawrence, a senior Tory MP, says the tactic will backfire. "An appeal for loyalty from Michael Heseltine or Kenneth Clarke would have one effect. It would make me

vote against the government rather than abstain. My local party is behind me on this. We have had a full and frank discussion. Intervention from outside is not welcome. My chairman even had a letter from another constituency chairman asking him to prevail upon me. Nothing could make anyone more angry than that."

MPs from the new intake are particularly vulnerable to pressure from their officers, who have the power — rarely used — to deselect. Iain Duncan-Smith, who succeeded Norman Tebbit as MP for Chingford, mirrors his predecessor's views on Maas-tricht and is likely to rebel. Duncan-Smith says he deplores the tactics being used by the whips and Central Office. "There has been a telephone call or letter to my association. But association officers are very independent. I made it clear on the first day I was selected where I stand on this issue."

● The prime minister has sent Michael Heseltine into Commons tearooms to try to persuade Maas-tricht waverers to come back into the fold. But Heseltine's strong-arm tactics are not always working. Teresa Gorman, who received a note from Heseltine requesting a meeting, scribbled a tart reply.



DIARY

"You must be joking. Don't call me and I won't call you."

Peer pressures

THE HOUSE OF LORDS is probably the last place you would expect to find American-style election razzmatazz. But their lordships are taking a leaf out of Clinton's and Bush's book by engaging in their first head-to-head debate for the leadership of the Labour peers. The job gives the successful candidate a place in the shadow cabinet.

Former EC commissioners Lord Clinton-Davis and Lord (Ivor) Richard are favourites against Lord Williams of Elvel. Clinton-Davis acknowledged the peers were breaking new ground with today's debate in a Lords committee room. "We need to put forward our distinctive messages much better and not just to run alongside the opinion polls. It is unusual. It is

a very discreet kind of election. Canvassing is frowned upon."

● John Major doesn't like people to know it, but his pet nickname for Norma is *Crab*, according to the latest issue of *The Oldie*. Major is so sensitive about it that Tory Central Office censors deleted the name when they spotted it in a draft of an interview with the *Majors' friend*, the actress Liz Fraser.

Fallen star

ONE of Britain's oldest working showbusiness stars, Evelyn Laye, underwent surgery at London's University College Hospital yesterday after breaking her hip in a fall at her flat in Marylebone. Known throughout her career as "Boo", Laye, 92, fell when getting out of bed and was found by her secretary. Her film and stage career

Three's a crowd

ROSS PEROT is proving as troublesome to the English Speaking Union as he has been to the campaigns of Bill Clinton and George Bush. As the charity prepares to welcome 700 guests for US election night, a problem has emerged — what to do with supporters of the independent candidate.

Billed as one of the biggest election-night parties outside the United States, a large number of the great and the good are expected to attend, including the American ambassador, Raymond Seitz, and more than 100 MPs. William Cash and Peter Lilley are expected to attend, along with ten shadow cabinet members.

A spokesman from the Union says: "We planned to arrange a live television link-up so guests could keep abreast of the latest results. The idea was to put Republicans in one room and

How many Perot supporters can you get in a mini?



Democrats in the other. Nobody thought about what should happen to Ross Perot's fans, and suggestions that we use the cloakroom have not been well received."

● ALL Mills & Boon stories have happy endings, and David Lodge, who has crossed swords with one of the publisher's writers, is doing his best to oblige. Lodge had erroneously implied in a newspaper article that Pauline Harris plagiarised his book *Nice Work*. Mills & Boon ended its contract with Harris and she is suing the firm for breach of contract. Lodge, professor of English at Birmingham University, has had a fit of conscience and asked Mills & Boon to reinstate the contract.

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TARGETS FOR AUSTERITY

The poorest and the unemployed should not be penalised

Today cabinet ministers meet for a marathon session to decide spending priorities for next year. Armed with arguments as to why their departmental spending is particularly politically sensitive, ministers will have to battle with each other to keep the total to £244.5 billion. This will be a zero-sum game.

It is a game that should have been relatively easy to play without undue rancour. Because the planning total was set before the general election, it allows for a generous real-terms increase in spending. Yet the way ministers have been talking, it is as if the cake over which they are fighting has grown smaller by the month.

In a way, it has. This is the last year in which cyclical changes in benefit pay-outs will be included in the cash total for public spending. Unfortunately, it is a year in which unemployment has risen much faster than expected. Peter Lilley's social security budget could be £3 billion higher than planned. That cost has to be absorbed.

The recession has increased overall spending too. British Rail and London Regional Transport, for instance, have lower fare income and so need more government help with investment. Meanwhile the devaluation of the pound has made costs denominated in foreign currency rise.

Most undeserving of cuts are benefit recipients. Mr Lilley is apparently under pressure to restrict increases in some benefits to just 2 per cent rather than the 3.6 per cent needed to keep pace with inflation. This would be grossly unfair to the poor, who are the least able to afford a real fall in income.

If Mr Lilley is forced to make cuts in benefit, he should aim them at payments such as child benefit and pensions which are enjoyed by rich and poor alike. He could afford to uprate family credit and income support for the poorest pensioners by more than inflation, to protect the poorest from the cuts and still save nearly £1 billion. In these

extraordinary times, the fact that the Conservative manifesto promised to maintain the real value of child benefit can be defended. The party also promised that "membership of the ERM is now central to our counter-inflation discipline" and that a Conservative victory would "trigger confidence and growth".

It seems bizarre, too, that the government could contemplate cutting the training budget at a time when unemployment is high and still rising. There has been a whispering campaign recently about the inefficiency of training expenditure. If some projects are a waste of money, then the funds should be reallocated to more cost-effective ones. But the total should certainly not fall.

What does that leave? Most important, a public-sector pay freeze. The government is instead looking at a ceiling of 2 per cent. That is a mistake. Those in work, and in guaranteed work at that, would see the fairness in being asked to bear some of the bill for those out of work. Public-sector workers have had little of the job insecurity of their private-sector counterparts.

The fourth target produces no economic benefit and serves only to save the government from embarrassment. That is the £2 billion that Michael Howard, the environment secretary, is seeking to mitigate the effects of the introduction of the council tax. It is preposterous that the government considers throwing any money after the £6 billion it has already spent on the poll tax.

The eventual package should be presented as exactly that — a package that cannot now be opened and argued over. It will have been put together after months of negotiations. If the government keeps to its side of the bargain by sharply cutting interest rates and protecting capital spending, then the squeeze on current spending should be accepted by backbenchers as a necessary weapon in the fight against future inflation.

THE BEAR'S TROUBLES

Eastward look the land is dark, and growing darker

While the world looks across the Atlantic for a new dawn, the land is darkening in the East. Boris Yeltsin is being cornered by his enemies and by the forces that threaten to return Russia to an evil totalitarianism. Failure starts his reform government in the face. Hyperinflation has impoverished the nation. The stench of fascism rises from the crowds who parade their ethnic hatreds and jeer at Russia's fledgling democracy.

As the political frenzy grows, President Yeltsin is having to wheel and turn to beat off challenges on all sides. Last week he banned the National Salvation Front, a backward-looking alliance of all those trying to halt reform. Belatedly, he saw the danger of the xenophobic, Slavophile nationalists making common cause with hard-line communists, and the anti-Western military hankering to regain the lost Soviet empire. He also decided to confront the growing power of Russian Khasbulatov, the sinister parliamentary speaker from Chechen-Ingushetia, who is now trying to bring down the reformist ministers he likens to "worms". Mr Yeltsin has outlawed the parliamentary security service. Mr Khasbulatov's fiercely loyal praetorian guard which has grown into a force of 5,000 men, rings the Russian Parliament, and is increasingly being used as a paramilitary organisation.

Mr Yeltsin's pre-emptive strike is typical of his bear-like courage. The danger is that this is no longer enough. The president's popular support is falling rapidly, as the country slides into ungovernability. No longer can he brush past the obstacles put in his way. He cannot even be sure that his words will be obeyed: the parliamentary guard is still on the streets and shows no sign

of disbanding. Like Mikhail Gorbachev, he is having to make concessions and tactical alliances: placating the military by lengthening the withdrawal from the Baltics, slowing down privatisation, retreating from the monetarist policies of his prime minister and the International Monetary Fund, acceding to the demands of the heavy industry lobby for easier credit and the continued support of ailing factories.

Mr Yeltsin has struggled to maintain his commitments to democracy. But more of his countrymen are rejecting both these principles and the kind of Western democracy that has made such a botched beginning in Russia. His room for manoeuvre is growing ever less, the influence of his opponents ever greater.

What lifeline can John Major throw him when he arrives in Britain next week? Mr Yeltsin will again appeal, with increasing desperation, for more aid, more investment. His bitterness at the west's dilatory response is understandable: of the \$24 billion promised to stabilise the rouble, not a cent has yet been paid over. Ironically, the worse things grow in Russia, the less attractive Western investment becomes and the more the IMF will insist on a change of economic policy. The West can warn Mr Yeltsin's anti-democratic enemies that they risk a return of confrontation with the West; unfortunately that is precisely their aim, and a warning would only reinforce their insistence that Russia must stand up to its Western foes. Europe has been bogged down by Maastricht, America by its elections, and both have not looked beyond the conflict in Yugoslavia. But further East a mighty storm is gathering.

TRIBAL PREJUDICES

The North-South divide is alive and well — and healthy

Market research into regional lifestyles published today finds that there is still strong evidence of a North-South divide and also a cross-Pennine divide in the United Kingdom. Real men, able to sink ten pints of beer at a sitting, are an endangered species in the South, but still roam freely in the North, instead of jogging. Northerners are the canniest bargain-hunters, though car boot sales have become a country-wide triumph of hope over the experience that other people's old junk is quite as depressing as one's own; people in Yorkshire and the North-East are the most committed to the dangerous and selfish-to-artisans modern amateurism of do-it-yourself.

There is no need of a market-research survey costing £795 a copy to iterate these stereotypes. Recent experience of public opinion polls ought to have persuaded everybody that the British are not upon oath when asked impertinent questions by unknown busybodies, but give the answers that they guess the questioner would like to hear, or any old thing that pops into their heads, just to get rid of him. A market researcher came by the man who had fallen among thieves on the road from Jerusalem to Jericho, and at once put him down as a "don't know" in the crime statistics, but as a 100 per cent increase in the figures for the Samaritan consumption of oil, wine and twopenny pieces.

The North-South divide is an inveterate cliché, always a generation behind in its details. The Southern stereotype sees cold winds and chippy and boastful Arthur

Scargill look-alikes coming from the North. Sedentary Southerners still expect Northerners to breed whippets and have an outside lavatory and a justified inferiority complex. Northerners see the South as the homeland of la-de-da accents, cushy jobs of an unmanly and unmanufacturing type, and an unjustified air of superiority.

Both stereotypes are out of date, though like all good clichés they have roots in fact. There are two nations in England, based upon the old division of the Danelaw. The division is apparent in the place-names and the regional dialects, the architecture, the Viking complexes and fair hair of the North. The division is accentuated by the lopsided position of London, down in the bottom right-hand corner of the offshore island, because the Thames was for centuries the front door into England. Because of its history and industry, the North has older-fashioned, cleaner, and tighter knit communities, where most people still know their roles. Immigrants find it easier to be assimilated in London, which was the first of the metropolitan international melting-pots after Alexandria and Rome and Paris.

Centripetal forces are at work ironing regional differences, from television to supermarkets selling the same goods from Middlesbrough to Tnaro. But no market survey is needed to demonstrate that England is still a paradise of regional differences. It is the greatest example of a kingdom united out of diversity, local antagonisms and bloody-minded tribal subsidiarity.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 071-782 5000

The Maastricht effect: differing views from industry, City and Labour

From Sir Michael Angus, President of the CBI, and others

Sir, As the House of Commons prepares to debate the Maastricht treaty we would like to make our position clear on the issues which are, or should be, at the heart of the debate.

From a business perspective the most important aspect of the Community's development is the single market. We see great attractions in open competition to supply the Community's 340 million consumers and are confident that, in truly open competition, British businesses can win a larger share of a more rapidly growing market. There is a danger that, amidst the current debate about the Community's future direction, the prize of completion of the single market will be overlooked.

The single market is more than a free trade area: it requires regulation and enforcement to ensure that barriers to competition are removed. The ratification of Maastricht will assist the development of that regulatory framework and will help to ensure that the single market continues to move forward.

We are also concerned about the signal a failure to ratify the treaty would give about our future position in the Community. The UK's ability to attract inward investment, which is critical for our economic future, would be weakened if we were seen to become semi-detached members.

Some claim that our withdrawal from the ERM and the great uncertainty which attaches to the EMU timetable, together argue for the abandonment of the treaty. We do not accept that view.

Early re-entry to the ERM is not likely to be feasible, though we should not close off the option to re-enter. But in the light of continuing uncertainties about how the ERM will develop and of our opt-out clause on economic and monetary union we see that issue as separable from the question of treaty ratification.

Our support for Maastricht should not be read as support for all aspects of the Community as it is or for the performance of the Commission. On the contrary, we believe that single market directives are not evenly enforced across the Community. And many British businesses resent the

intrusive and sometimes erratic approach the Commission takes to regulation and legislation.

These problems can, however, be solved within the framework of the treaty. It provides, for the first time, a peg for a definition of the slippery concept of subsidiarity. We look to the Edinburgh summit for further progress on that point. And we also want to see greater openness in the way the Community does its business.

Above all, we are anxious to see an early resolution of the UK's position. The economy is in a serious condition, and there is a desperate need for steps to revive confidence. Continuing uncertainty over the Maastricht treaty and our future in Europe is already having a damaging effect. Without a clear message soon from Parliament, political uncertainty will translate into more lost output and unemployment.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL ANGUS, President,
Confederation of British Industry,
ALEXANDER
(National Westminster Bank),
JAMES BLYTH (Boots),
DOMINIC CADBURY
(Cadbury Schweppes),
CLIFFORD CHETWOOD
(George Wimpey),
BRIAN CORBY (Prudential),
DICK EVANS (British Aerospace),
RICHARD GREENBURY
(Mates & Spencer),
DENYS HENDERSON (ICI),
CHRISTOPHER HOGG (Courtaulds),
J. M. LAING (John Laing),
DAVID LEE (GKN),
RICHARD LLOYD (Vickers),
IAN McALLISTER (Ford Motor Co),
COLIN MARSHALL (British Airways),
BRYAN NICHOLSON (Post Office),
MICHAEL PERRY (Unilever),
ANTHONY PILKINGTON (Pilkington),
JOHN QUINTON (Barclays Bank),
SAINSBURY (J. Sainsbury),
PATRICK SHEEHY (BAT Industries),
DAVID SIMON (BP),
ROLAND SMITH (Hepworth),
COLIN SOUTHGATE (Thorn EM),
ANTHONY TENNANT (Guinness),
I. D. T. VALLANCE (BT),
JAMES WATSON
(National Freight Corporation),
Confederation of British Industry,
Centre Point,
103 New Oxford Street, WC1,
October 30.

From the Leader of the European Parliamentary Labour Party

Sir, Bryan Gould ("Start to be an Opposition", October 27) confuses opposition for its own sake with the art of serious politics. According to him, it would seem that if the government suggested the sun set in the west we would have to oppose it to prove our credentials.

Europe is not a political toy but crucial to the future development of our economy, our society and our democracy. Labour's "No" vote on November 4 will reflect the government's complete absence of political responsibility on Europe. John Major brought back a treaty which sold out British workers (by the social chapter opt-out), let down British industry (falling into Europe's slow lane on EMU), and failed even to mollify his backbenchers.

Labour's MEPs witness the British presidency's inaction and abdication each month in Strasbourg: a Europe led by the Tories is a Europe looking nowhere.

On Maastricht, the very things Bryan Gould purports to support (such as democratisation of the Community) are exactly those which the treaty provides for and are endorsed by all 16 socialist parties in every country in the EC. The British Labour party conference overwhelmingly agreed that the party should not prevent ratification, despite regret on the social chapter.

Bryan Gould lost the argument at Blackpool. He is wrong to use the government's shameful record on Europe to keep flogging his extremely dead horse.

Yours faithfully,
GLYN FORD
(Leader, European Parliamentary Labour Party),
46 Stamford Road,
Mossley, Lancashire,
October 30.

From the Chief Executive of De La Rue

Sir, It is not realistic to suggest that, as some would have us believe, Europe, the single market and Maastricht can be separated from general economic issues.

Virtually 60 per cent of UK exports

are destined for other Community countries and British industry has invested vast sums in acquiring and developing assets throughout the market. Inevitably our future role in Europe is intimately linked with our overall economic performance.

It is unhelpful for certain politicians to ignore those realities and their manoeuvrings are doing no favours to British industry and British jobs.

Yours faithfully,
JEREMY MARSHALL,
Chief Executive,
De La Rue plc,
6 Agar Street, WC2.

From the Chairman of the Freedom Association

Sir, Signing up for economic union with the EC is frequently said to be "good for Britain and good for Europe". But how far is this true in the case of the former?

From 1973 to 1991 the UK had accumulated a trade deficit with EC countries of £97.4 billion. Add to that a net budgetary contribution to Brussels of £16.2 billion and you have the price paid since our accession to the Treaty of Rome.

Yours faithfully,
NORRIS McWHIRTER,
Chairman,
The Freedom Association,
35 Westminster Bridge Road, SE1.

From Mr Anthony Procopi

Sir, The result of the recent referendum in Canada surely only strengthens the stance of the Euro-sceptics in relation to greater European integration. As Europe aims for closer harmony amongst member states, many Canadian provinces seem to show a distinct lack of harmony concerning federal powers within their own nation.

Ultimately it is the language barrier, as identified in "Canadian cracks" (leading article, October 26), that will cause the failure of full EC integration and Quebec to become an independent state.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY PROCOPI,
18 Esmond Road, Kilburn, NW6.

Business letters, page 38

Engineering education

From Professor D. E. Newland, FEng

Sir, May I remind Sir Christopher Cockerell (letter, October 29) that engineering design is now a main theme in professionally-accredited university engineering courses (most courses in the UK) and that manufacturing and management topics, verbal and written exposition and foreign languages are included in many.

To blame our current balance of payments problem on lack of engineering education, even in part, does not recognise the tremendous improvements in design teaching that have taken place over the last twenty years.

One reason that manufacturing industry is unable to produce competitive products may be that some other countries can get away with paying their engineers (or at least their production-line workers) even less than the low UK levels of which Sir Christopher complains.

Yours sincerely,
DAVID NEWLAND,
Selwyn College,
Cambridge,
October 29.

Support for judges' pension reform

From His Honour Judge John Platt and others

Sir, This government narrowly avoided defeat in the House of Lords last night over an attempt to change judges' pension rights during the report stage of the Judicial Pensions and Retirement Bill (report, later editions, October 28).

Far from being another sinister attack by the government on the judiciary, the bill is the government's reasoned response to long-standing requests from the judiciary and the Top Salaries Review Body to reform the present hotchpotch of judicial pensions legislation. This is riddled with inconsistencies and anomalies.

The bill proposes a single unified scheme which will apply equally to the whole of the judiciary. All the old anomalies have been swept away. With them have had to go some special privileges which are no longer in line with modern pensions legislation, in particular the 15-year accrual period presently enjoyed by some judicial officers.

The 20-year period proposed is the shortest now permitted under the

social security acts. There is no convincing reason why the general law should not apply equally to the judiciary.

We do not suggest that the bill in its present form is incapable of improvement. There are a number of matters upon which representations have been made to the Lord Chancellor and his mind is clearly not closed to the arguments which have been advanced.

Even as it stands, the bill offers the prospect of significant benefits to those appointed before and after the date upon which it may come into force. It is strongly supported by very many judges and deserves to become law as quickly as possible.

Yours faithfully,
JOHN R. PLATT,
A. B. MacFARLANE
(Master, Court of Protection),
STEPHEN KENDRICK (President,
Association of District Judges),
Edmonton County Court,
Fore Street,
Upper Edmonton, N18,
October 28.

A nation of waiters?

From Mr Geoffrey Goodall

Sir, Peter Owen of the Independent Schools Association worries lest our poorly educated young should end up merely as the waiters of Europe (report, October 28). He need have no fear. On the Continent the job of the waiter is mostly viewed with pride and admiration.

Having returned from a holiday in Sorrento, I do wonder how many of our young British school leavers could carry themselves with the dignity, self-esteem and smartness of the Italian waiters. Their ability to communicate in three languages, plus their obvious skill in interpersonal relations, indicated that these Italians must have been well educated somewhere, either at school or in the school of life.

Yours sincerely,
GEOFFREY GOODALL,
Colegrove House, Colegrove Down,
Curnor Hill, Oxford.

Stansted refugees

From Councillor Alan Bradley

Sir, The government's response to the situation which is unfolding in the area around Stansted airport (report, October 27, 28) is disgraceful. It is ridiculous to expect Unilever District Council to cope with the ever increasing number of refugees arriving at that airport.

It is not only local authorities with an airport on their doorstep that are affected. Last year Westminster City Council housed 228 refugees (13 per cent of available housing in that year) when neighbouring local authorities were dealing with nothing like that number. Why Westminster? Simply because we are at the centre of the capital and refugees tend to gravitate towards us.

Westminster, too, is urging the government to accept responsibility for a problem which local authorities have had no part in creating. Councils

should be reimbursed in full for the costs of temporary and permanent housing for refugees.

Alternatively, national reception centres should be established where refugees would stay while their applications are being processed by the Home Office. The aim should then be to spread the burden more fairly.

The current refusal by the government to accept responsibility for refugees whom its own immigration authorities have allowed into the country must not continue. It is inhumane in its treatment of refugees and creates resentment among residents who foot the bill and see others jump the housing queue.

Yours faithfully,
ALAN BRADLEY
(Chairman, Housing Committee),
Westminster City Council,
PO Box 240,
Westminster City Hall,
Victoria Street, SW1.

Bronze Age boat

From Dr David Tomalin and others

Sir, Dr E. V. Wright (letter, October 27) rightly emphasised the importance of the Middle Bronze Age boat discovered during work on the A20, eight metres beneath the surface in Dover (report, October 3).

This vessel is now bisected by steel coffer plates and more than half of her estimated length (perhaps some 18 metres in total) remains abandoned beneath an initial layer of concrete newly poured in preparation for a road development. We may easily wait another 100 years before fortune throws up further archaeological evidence of this magnitude.

Has our national heritage management machinery the perspicacity and

means to meet the pressing challenge of fully recovering the boat? We must congratulate English Heritage on its prompt response in rescuing a further portion after the initial find but it would be regrettable if the work and the funding stopped there.

The threat to the boat's survival complete has been posed by a road scheme financed by the Department of Transport. Only the National Heritage Memorial Fund seems to have the resources and remit to resolve this immediate threat to our national heritage.

In the years to come European citizens will return again and again to the questions of trade and technology posed by the Dover find. As a principal maritime member of the European Community we shall be poorly served by less than half a boat

presenting less than half an answer.

Yours truly,
DAVID TOMALIN
(University of Southampton),
JONATHAN ADAMS
(University of Stockholm),
CHRISTOPHER DOBBS (Chairman,
Nautical Archaeological Society),
ALEXANDRA HILDRED
(Institute of Field Archaeologists),
D. P. S. PEACOCK
(University of Southampton),
MARGARET RULE,
University of Southampton,
Department of Archaeology,
Highfield Road,
Southampton, Hampshire.

Letters should carry a daytime telephone number. They may be faxed to 071-782 5046.

Ambulance troubles

From Professor Emeritus Glyn Emery

Sir, Though the head of the London ambulance service has done the honourable thing by accepting responsibility for the failure of the information system under his management (report, October 29), surely the blame should rest not with him but with those who installed it. The system, it appears, might have worked entirely reliably had another group been involved.

Fortunately such systems do not often fail these days, but when they do the results can be disastrous. Managers who decide to fit an information system are therefore (whether or not they realise it) in an impossible position. Unless they have some professional understanding of the issues involved, how are they to decide on whom to award the contract to, or even whose advice to take?

Only a complete professionalism among all providers of information systems, so as to ensure that they are suitable for the job in hand, can save us from a repetition of the ambulance service debacle.

Yours faithfully,
GLYN EMERY,
134 Northchurch Road, N1,
October 29.

From Mr Edward A. Pickett

Sir, Thirty years ago computers were primitive and unreliable, software was rudimentary and the management of change an unknown science. Failures were understandable. Today there can be no excuse.

If information technology recruitment is confined to the 20 to 30 age group (at 40 you seem to be finished), experience may come to be regarded as irrelevant and discounted. This must contribute to the continuing saga of failed systems.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD A. PICKETT,
Foresters, Boughton Hall Avenue,
Send, Woking, Surrey.

From Mr David Gale

Sir, Might it be too much to hope that, following Mr John Wilby's honourable resignation from the ambulance service, others in public office might rediscover accountability and go when they have manifestly lost all public confidence?

Yours faithfully,
DAVID GALE,
37 Harlech Road, N14.

Passing the buck

From Mr John Williams

Sir, In case British Rail should become paranoid about autumn in this country it should know that our train from Venice was 25 minutes late into Paris last Monday morning — due, we were assured, to "leaves on the line in Switzerland".

Yours sincerely,
JOHN WILLIAMS,
95 Hurlingham Court,
Ranelagh Gardens, SW6,
October 27.



COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE
November 1: The Duke of York, Colonel-in-Chief, today visited the 4th Battalion, the 5th Battalion and the 8th Battalion, The Royal Irish Regiment, Northern Ireland.

Afterwards His Royal Highness attended a Regimental Service of Remembrance at St Anne's Cathedral, Belfast, Northern Ireland and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for the County Borough of Belfast (Colonel Wilson, OBE).

Captain Neil Blair, RN, was in attendance.

November 1: The Princess Royal, Past Master, the Worshipful Company of Farriers, this afternoon attended the United Kingdom Chasers "Chase of All Time" at Poulton Fields Estate, Crenesier.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 1: The Prince and Princess of Wales departed from Heathrow Airport London, this evening at the start of a tour of the Republic of Korea.

The following were present and took leave of their Royal Highnesses: Mr Yang Chun Park (Minister, Embassy of the Republic of Korea) and Mrs Young Rank Park Air Commodore J F Langer (representing Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Greater London) and Mr Robin Baxendale (Manager, Special Facilities, Heathrow Airport Limited).

Miss Anne Beckwith-Smith, Mr Peter Westminster, Lieutenant Commander Robert Fraser RN, Mr Richard Arbiter and Surgeon Captain Ian Jenkins RN, are in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
November 1: The Duke of Gloucester was present at a Service of Celebration for the Life and Work of Group Captain the Lord Chesire, VC, OM, which was held in Lincoln Cathedral, today.

His Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant for Lincolnshire (Colonel Sir Henry Nevill).

Major Nicholas Barne was in attendance.

KENSINGTON PALACE
October 31: Princess Alice, Duchess of Gloucester this afternoon visited Derbyshire and was received by Her Majesty's Lord Lieutenant (Colonel Peter Hilton).

Her Royal Highness opened the new Science and Technology Block of the University of Derby.

Dame Jean Maxwell-Smith was in attendance.

The Duchess of Gloucester, Patron, Bobath Centre, attended a Dinner Dance at Hilton Hotel, Park Lane, London W1.

Mrs Howard Page was in attendance.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE
November 1: The Duke of Kent this evening attended a performance of Verdi's Requiem by the Royal Choral Society at the Royal Festival Hall, London SE1.

Commander Roger Walker RN was in attendance.

Anniversaries

BIRTHS: Jean Baptiste Chardin, painter, Paris, 1699; Daniel Boone, frontiersman, Pennsylvania, 1735; Marie Antoinette, Queen of France, Vienna, 1755; James Knox Polk, 11th American President, 1845-49; Pineville, North Carolina, 1795; George Sord, socialist, Cherbourg, 1847; Warren Harding, 29th American President 1921-23, Blooming Grove, Ohio, 1865.

DEATHS: Richard Hooker, theologian, Bishopsgate, Kent, 1600; Richard Bannock, Archbishop of Canterbury, 1604-10; London, 1610; Sir Samuel Romilly, law reformer, committed suicide, London, 1818; Jenny Lind, soprano, Malvern, 1887; George Bernard Shaw, dramatist, Ayot St Lawrence, Hertfordshire, 1950; James Thurber, humorist, New York, 1961.

The Times Guide

The Times Guide to English Style and Usage is published today by Times Books. The guide is written by Mr Simon Jenkins when he was editor of The Times, based on the newspaper's in-house style manual. The succinct and authoritative advice will be invaluable to all who write English. The guide is available from bookshops at £7.99.

Lecture

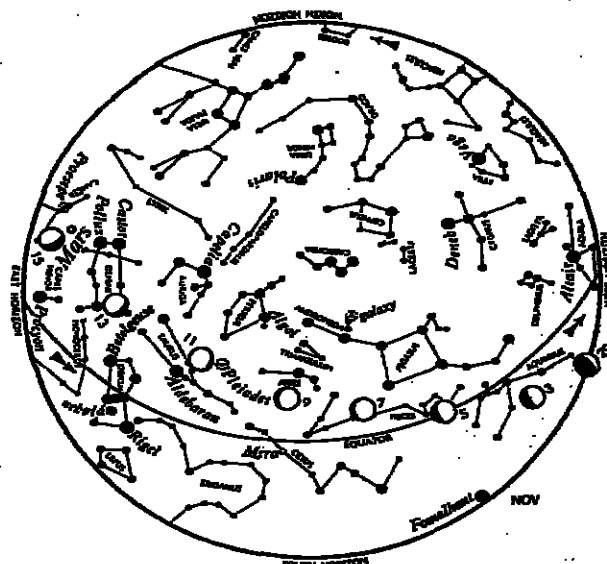
The Bristol Society
The Lord Mayor of Bristol, the High Sheriff of Avon, The Chairman of Avon County Council and the Lord Bishop of Bristol attended the inaugural lecture of the Bristol Society at the University of the West of England, Bristol, last Friday evening. The lecture was delivered by the Right Hon William Waldegrave, Minister for the City, on the subject of the City of Bristol. Mr Sir John Harnell, Chairman of the Bristol Society, presided and Mr Alfred Morris, the Vice-Chancellor of the University of the West of England, gave the vote of thanks. Dr Robert Glendinning, the Chairman of the University, gave a supper afterwards for the 250 guests that attended.

Reception

Stonhurst Association
Last Saturday, the Right Hon Lord Hope, the Lord Justice General of Scotland, was the guest of honor at the Stonhurst Association's reception in the Parliament Hall, Edinburgh, and at dinner afterwards in the Signet Library. The Hon Lord Brad presented and other speakers included the Very Rev Michael O'Halloran, SJ, the Rector of Stonhurst College.

The night sky in November

BY MICHAEL J HENDRIE
ASTRONOMY CORRESPONDENT



The diagram shows the brighter stars that will be above the horizon in the latitude of London at 23h 01 pm at the beginning, 23h 01 pm at the middle, and 23h 01 pm at the end of the month. Local mean time. All places away from the Greenwich meridian. The Greenwich time at which the diagram applies are later than the above by one hour for each 15 deg west of Greenwich and earlier by a like amount if the place be east. The map should be used by the horizon the observer is standing on by the month around the circle is at the bottom, the zenith being at the centre. Greenwich Mean Time, known to astronomers as Universal Time and expressed in 24-hour notation, is used in the accompanying notes unless otherwise stated.

Sunset on the 1st is at 16h 35m and on the 30th at 15h 50m while sunrise is at 06h 50m and 07h 45m on the same dates.

Astronomical Twilight ends at 18h 30m and 17h 55m early and late in the month and begins again at 05h 00m and 05h 45m.

Algol, the variable star in Perseus, can be seen when faint this November about the following times: 3d 20h, 18d 04h, 21d 01h, 23d 22h and 26d.

In the night sky notes for August mention was made of the Perseid meteor stream and the parent comet P/Swift-Tuttle 1862 III. While no unusually strong meteor activity was seen from this country reports from countries further east, where it was dark earlier,

suggest some stronger bursts of activity early on the evening of the 11th. This activity was confirmed by radio observations made by John Mason at Barnham in Sussex.

A comet was discovered on September 26 by Japanese astronomer T Kiuchi which, it was thought, could be the long-awaited periodic comet Swift-Tuttle. Further observations and computations of the present orbit leave no doubt that the new comet is Swift-Tuttle, last seen at its 1862 return and that the observations of Keeler, in 1937 also relate to the same comet. The interval in years between successive perihelion passages is only an approximate guide to the identity of a comet, as in this case the intervals were 125

and 130 years and the present period is about 135 years. The comet will be at its closest to the Sun on December 12, which is not the most favourable time for a good display. During November it will move southwards across Hercules and into Aquila closing with the Sun as it moves into Sagittarius and Capricornus.

The comet starts the month as a fuzzy, probably tailless object of about eighth or ninth magnitude and while it should be visible in ordinary binoculars it is unlikely to be an easy object, unless you know just where to look. By the end of November and early December it should have brightened to 6.5 to 7th magnitude, after which it will begin to fade again.

The November chart shows these constellations lying almost along the western horizon but that is drawn for 23h on the 1st, 22h on the 15th and 21h on the 30th November. As it will be dark by 18h and the comet will sink lower in the sky as the evening progresses, it will be best to look for it as soon as it is dark. The chart for last September shows the stars as they will be at about 18h during the second half of November. On this chart the path of the comet night by night towards the southwestern horizon can be visualised.

The moonless period extends from November 13 to 26. On the evening of the 13th the comet will be about 15 degrees below Vega and by the end of the month about 15 degrees below Altair. The angular distance between these two stars is about 30 degrees. It may not be easy to find but the next opportunity to see comet Swift-Tuttle will not be until the year 2128.

Marriages

A reception was held at Inner Temple Hall.

Mr N.E. Keegan and Miss S.A. Woodburn.

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Temple Church of Captain James Cowan, The Black Watch (Royal Highland Regiment), eldest son of Colonel and Mrs Edward Cowan, to the Hon Mary Louise Manningham Buller, daughter of Viscount Dillmore and of Mrs Stuart Holden. Canon Joseph Robinson officiated and the Bishop of Buckingham gave an address.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Mr Malcolm Pumphrey and Miss Marie Eichler.

Mr M.E.D. Pumphrey and Miss Marie Eichler.

The marriage took place on Saturday, October 31, 1992, at Harpenden Methodist Church, between Mr Malcolm Pumphrey and Miss Marie Eichler.

Mr M.E.D. Pumphrey and Miss Marie Eichler.

The marriage took place on Saturday, October 31, in Cardiff, between Tom Stone, son of Mr and Mrs J.F. Stone, and Julia Hallinan, daughter of Sir Lincoln and Lady Hallinan.

Mr N.A.B. Chandler and Miss C.E. Edwards.

The marriage took place on October 14, in Woodstock, Vermont, between Nicholas, only son of Mr and Mrs Anthony Chandler, of Bath, and Claire, only daughter of Mrs Ann Edwards, of Sydney, Australia.

The Hon Richard Vincent Holmes and Miss C.E. Holmes.

The marriage took place on Saturday at St Peter's, Loudwater, Buckinghamshire, of the Hon Richard Vincent Holmes, twin son of Lord and Lady Holmes of Chichester, of Lurgashall, West Sussex, to Miss Caroline Elizabeth Holman, daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Holman, of Hazlemere, Buckinghamshire. The Rev Timothy Bunn officiated.

The bride, who was given in marriage by her father, was attended by Rachel Wood, Mrs Wendy Wood and Miss Cally Turner. The Hon John Holmes was best man.

A reception was held at the Taplow House Hotel and the honeymoon will be spent in Egypt.

Mr R.E. Gooder and Miss V.E. Ewen.

The marriage took place on Saturday at St. Kenelm's Church, Sapperton, Gloucestershire, of Mr Ben Gooder, elder son of Dr and Mrs Richard Gooder, of Cambridge, and Miss Tor Ewen, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Arthur Ewen, of Sapperton, Gloucestershire. The Rev J. Francis officiated.

The bride, who was given away by her father, was attended by Dominic Calio and Toby Williams. Mr Stephen Gooder was best man.

A reception was held at the home of the bride and the honeymoon is being spent abroad.

Forthcoming marriages

Mr P.A. Belcher and Miss A.J. Kiddy.

The engagement is announced between Philip, younger son of the late Mr Kenneth Belcher and of Mrs Belcher, of Walsfield Green, Sussex, and Amanda, daughter of the late Mr Michael Kiddy and of Mrs Kiddy, of Seaford, Sussex.

Mr P.J. Cowes and Miss C.J. Lewis.

The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Major and Mrs John Cowen, of Camberley, Surrey, and Catherine, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Lewis, of Radley College, Oxfordshire.

Mr J.M. Crook and Miss Z.I. Kates.

The engagement is announced between Peter, elder son of Mr and Mrs Charles Crook, of Johannesburg, and Zoe, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Kates, of Johannesburg.

Mr N.G. Davies-Scourfield and Miss S.O. Hedderley.

The engagement is announced between Gwyn, only son of Brigadier and Mrs E.G.B. Davies-Scourfield, of Medstead, Hampshire, and Susan, only daughter of Mr and Mrs R. Hedderley, of Amman, Shropshire.

Mr D.M. Realy and Miss A. McCannachie.

The engagement is announced between Daniel, younger son of Mr and Mrs William Realy, of New York, and Aileen, eldest daughter of Dr and Mrs Christopher McCannachie, of Umato, South Africa. The marriage will take place next June in Chippingfield, Hertfordshire.

Mr H.W. Jennings and Miss E.M. Collyer.

The engagement is announced between Huw, youngest son of Major and Mrs Brian Jennings, of Salisbury, and Eleanor, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Geoffrey Collyer, of Northampton.

Mr M.J.M. Moir and Miss V.C.M. Peter.

The engagement is announced between Michael, elder son of Mr and Mrs A.H.M. Moir, of Great Missenden, Buckinghamshire, and Victoria, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C.K.B. Peter, of Litchfield, Warwickshire.

Mr G.J. Woodcock and Miss N. Baker.

The engagement is announced between George, only son of Mr and Mrs D.H. Woodcock, of Hillcrest, Harpenden, Northampton, and Nicola, only daughter of Mr and Mrs M.T. Baker, of Forge House, Upenn, Devon.

Mr C.E. Hancock and Miss C.M. Murray.

The engagement is announced between Christopher, elder son of Mr and Mrs J.E. Hancock, of Taston, Oxfordshire, and Charlotte, daughter of Commander and Mrs J.A. Murray, of Godalming, Surrey.

Mr T.C.A. Hayward and Miss D.M. Church.

The engagement is announced between Timothy, only son of Mr A.T.C. Hayward, of Lyndon, Rutland, and daughter of Mr and Mrs C.E. Church, of North Aston, Oxfordshire, and Deirdre, only daughter of Mr and Mrs C.F. Church, of Newquay, Cornwall.

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SR 2 1992

ARTS 29-31

The museum that has a Hong Kong patron to thank

GOLF 36

Faldo enjoys the fruits of a supreme season

BOXING 40

Lewis demands world title bout in London

THE TIMES

2

TUESDAY NOVEMBER 3 1992

CBI demands a share in setting policy

By Ross Tisdale

THE Confederation of British Industry is preparing to call the government's bluff by demanding that business be allowed to set the agenda for industrial policy.

In his address to the conference in Harrogate, Mr Howard Davies, the Secretary of State for Industry, will announce the government's response to the CBI's proposals.

Mr Davies said that the government was committed to a policy of "industrial democracy" and that it would be looking for ways to improve the relationship between business and government.

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of whether the government should establish some sort of long-term industrial plan. But the CBI is certain to insist that ministers should take more account of the impact of public sector decisions on private sector firms.

The employers' organisation will also renew its call for maintained spending on infrastructure and more effective spending on training. Mr Davies said that without adequate funds, some Training and Enterprise Councils could become little more than mechanisms for distributing unemployment benefits.

The CBI had a duty to present feasible policies to ministers, Mr Davies said. In return, the employers' organisation would expect explanations if those policies went unheeded.

In the past, the Treasury invited submissions from outsiders about appropriate objectives of economic policy, but it was impossible to discern the content to which those submissions were influential in the Chancellor's Autumn Statement.

"That is really irritating and they have just got to stop it," Mr Davies said. In future, industry would be looking for a dialogue. The director general said the CBI would expect ministers to "engage" with its proposals.

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First: Howard Davies is seizing the chance offered by the government's disarray

ICI to shut two chlorine plants

By Patricia Trehan

ICI has decided to close two chlorine plants, with the loss of 100 jobs, because spiralling electricity prices have made the company uncompetitive with international rivals. ICI said the price of electricity, which is a large part of the cost of producing chlorine, had risen by up to 60 per cent since April last year.

ICI Chemicals & Polymers will close the two plants, at Hillhouse Site, Lancashire, in the middle of next year. The plants account for almost a tenth of the company's 900,000 tonnes a year of chlorine capacity. The chlorine business generates sales of £1.5 billion a year.

Mike Brogden, chief executive of Chemicals and Polymers, said: "Our chlorine plants at Hillhouse will require large capital expenditure to meet environmental legislation in the near future. Given the declining demand on ICI's chlorine plants and with huge electricity price increases, this expenditure cannot be justified and we have no choice but to announce this closure."

He added: "There is no doubt that the rise in electricity prices and uncertainties over the future price levels are adversely affecting the business."

The threat of job cuts still hangs over the main production plant in Runcorn, Merseyside, which employs most of the 7,000 staff in ICI's chlorine business and where production has been cut back. A reduction in capacity is also likely at the smaller Wilton plant on Teesside.

In June, after a year of fruitless negotiations with National Power and PowerGen, the company said it would pull out of chlor-alkalis unless electricity prices were reduced to a level comparable with that paid by its international rivals.

Coal contracts, page 23

Pensions payout plan

By Andrew Cook, MONEY EDITOR

THE Pensioners' Association has called for a life-time pension scheme to be set up for those who have worked for a company for 20 years or more.

The association said that the current pension scheme was inadequate and that it was necessary to set up a new scheme to ensure that pensioners could live comfortably in retirement.

The association said that the new scheme should be based on a life-time basis, so that pensioners could receive a regular payment for the rest of their lives.

The association said that the new scheme should be funded by contributions from both employers and employees, and that it should be managed by a trust.

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London & Manchester fined £80,000

LONDON & Manchester Assurance has been fined £80,000 by the Life Assurance and Unit Trust Regulatory Organisation for breaches of rules concerning 18 of its appointed representative firms.

The company will visit 10,000 customers to check whether they were sold correct products. It will compensate those found to have been wrongly switched into its policies or who were sold inappropriate investments.

The company admitted a charge of misconduct in connection with the suitability, training and supervision of appointed representatives. It agreed it did not make adequate enquiries into the character and management and controllers of the firms, did not monitor properly the policies they sold or keep adequate records.

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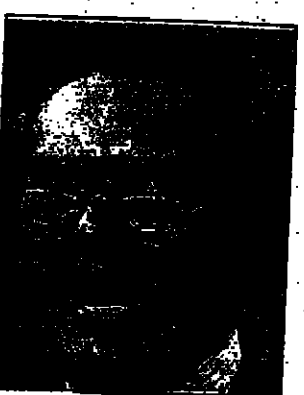
Dan-Air takeover cleared for take-off

By Jonathan Pryor

MICHAEL Heseltine, the trade secretary, has decided not to refer British Airways' takeover of Dan-Air to the Monopolies and Mergers Commission, providing a major boost to the airline.

In a statement released yesterday, Mr Heseltine said he agreed with the view of Sir Bryan Cantrill, the director-general of fair trading, that the takeover "raises competition concerns", but the likely consequences for services at Gatwick meant that "the public interest would be better served by not referring the merger to the MMC".

The deal received the all-clear from the European merger authorities last week. The merger was thrashed



Heseltine concerns

British Airways, said he was delighted at the decision. "We will now persevere with developing our short-haul operations and assisting further development of Gatwick as a major international airport," he said.

The reaction from BA's UK competitors was predictably heated. Richard Branson, the chairman of Virgin Atlantic, called on the government to overhail its competition policy in the light of the decision.

Mr Branson, who was in merger talks with Dan-Air before the BA deal was sealed, said: "First Laker, then British Caledonian, then Air Europe and now Dan-Air. In view of the demise of all these companies, a government that believes in competition must urgently review competition policy and either set up

an Ofair, like Ofel and Ofgas, or give the Civil Aviation Authority more clout to encourage competition."

Sir Michael Bishop, the chairman of British Midland, said yesterday's decision left the government's competition policy "in disarray". He added: "We are most concerned that the government could take the view that the short-term problems facing Dan-Air are of greater importance to the public interest than the long-term survival of a multi-airline industry in the UK."

He said in light of the competition concerns expressed by the director-general of fair trading and Mr Heseltine, "it is all the more astonishing that they have suggested no positive and constructive remedies to address these concerns."

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DOUBLE UP

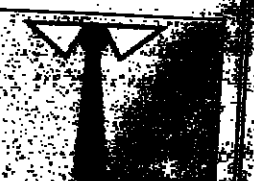


The Prudential said profits would have been twice disclosed levels under an alternative accounting method. Page 23

RATE CUT

Banque de France yesterday cut its key lending rate for the first time in more than a year. Page 23

UNKNOWN



The Rack, the specialist retailer, has put its house in order and returned to profit at the interim stage. Page 24

LAW TIMES



The case for improving the way in which judges are chosen is compelling, says David Patnick. Page 53

US dollar 1.5363 (-0.0269)
German mark 2.40634 (-0.0048)
Exchange index 77.9 (-0.5)
Bank of England official rates Page 1

FT 30 share 1996.1 (+32.3)
FT-SE 100 2697.8 (+29.5)
New York Dow Jones 3284.11 (+7.83)
Tokyo Nikkei Avg 16993.36 (+89.86)

London: Bank Base 5%
3-month interbank 7-7.5%
3-month eligible bills 6-6.5%
US Prime Rate 8%
Federal Funds 3-3.5%
3-month Treasury Bill 5.01-5.02%
30-year bonds 95-95.5%

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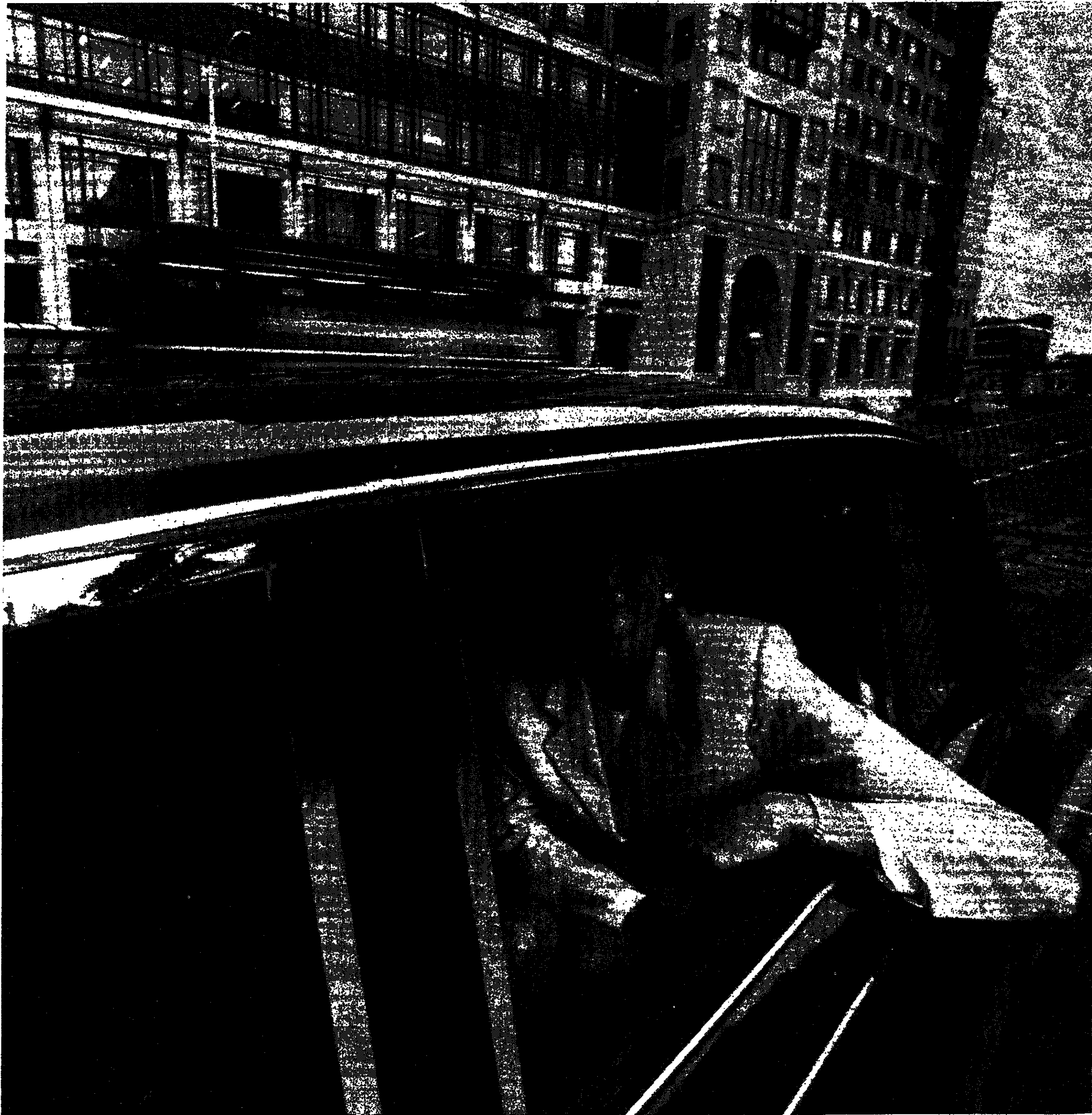
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6 WHILST AT BUSINESS SCHOOL
MY TUTOR TOLD ME TO TRY EVERYTHING ONCE.
HE WAS WRONG.
I ONCE FLEW TO BOSTON WITH ANOTHER AIRLINE 9

Heather Nicol, Investment Banker.



At Northwest we've thought long and hard about how to make your journey to Boston as short and easy as possible.

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Class seats on all connecting US domestic flights.

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جوليا 1992

Bread price war cuts a slice out of ABF

FULL-YEAR figures from Associated British Foods will be read with interest by the shareholders in the battle for RHM. Despite a decent first full-year contribution from British Sugar, the results show the scars of the continuing price war in the whole-sale bread market.

The result was an 11 per cent decline in comparable earnings per share to 43.7p in the year to September 12, the first slip in 13 years. Pre-tax profits fell a similar amount to £297 million, slightly better than City forecasts.

Most of the damage was caused by the bread price war. Profits in European manufacturing fell by 14 per cent, despite a reasonable performance from biscuits and ice cream.

Despite the margin pressures, ABF shows no signs of reducing output, as witnessed by the 12 per cent rise in the division's sales, so the intense discounting is likely to continue into next year. The longer-term future of the market will be determined by RHM's new owner. If Tomkins or Hanson try to expand market share, margins will continue shrinking. But neither group has shown a desire to promote volume for its own sake and if, as expected, they cut capacity, profits will improve throughout the industry.

British Sugar, chipped in profits of £139 million, £2 million higher on a like-for-like basis, and should benefit further this year from cost savings and plant closures.

The results also demonstrate the bountiful cash generation of food manufacturing, which first attracted Hanson and Tomkins to

RHM. ABF has a £400 million cash pile, almost unchanged from a year ago, despite a demanding capital investment programme. Up to a quarter of this, however, is likely to be spent on C&H, the San Francisco sugar cane refinery, by the end of the year.

Nevertheless the group has more than enough cash to raise its final dividend by 1p to 5.5p, and plenty of scope for more increases since it is covered almost three times. Even assuming profits remain flat this year, the shares, at 443p, trade on a p/e ratio of less than ten and a yield of 4.5 per cent. Inexpensive, since ABF could be the real winner in the auction of its main competitor.

Prudential
WITH impeccable timing, the insurance industry is planning substantial changes to its accounts that will present a far less conservative view of profits. Meanwhile, under the stern gaze of the Accounting Standards Board, the rest of British business is fast heading in the opposite direction towards hair shirts and unfeeling budgets.

The ink has hardly dried on Financial Reporting Standard 3, the ASB's tough new set of rules for profit and loss statements, and the Prudential, with the backing of the Association of British Insurers, produces so-called accruals accounting. In the Prudential's case, the new approach would, if used last year, have lifted pre-tax profits from £267 million to £620 million. Earnings per share would be almost three times higher and shareholders' funds would soar from



Profits tied up: Roy Bishko, chairman (left) and Nigel McGinley, chief executive of Tie Rack

£463 million to £2.9 billion. How convenient, especially if you run a life office that might just be vulnerable to takeover.

It is clear from the Prudential's statement that there is at least a hope accruals accounting might in time supplant the traditional method. This should be resisted by all who favour conservatism over hope and certainty over assumption.

The existing fuddy-duddy approach to life assurance results takes profits mainly when contracts have matured, when obviously far less can go

wrong with the calculations. For this reason more than half the profit on a traditional policy will arise in the last five years of its life. Under accruals accounting, more than half the profit will be booked in the first five.

So-called profit is taken much earlier by projecting future cash flows, which in some cases can be little more than educated guesses on investment earnings, expected lapse rates, expenses, tax and mortality rates. All of these are discounted back to present value using another sub-

jective yardstick of an assumed investment rate. Clearly much can go wrong over time to invalidate earlier assumptions. In an industry already attacked for front-loading of its policies, this looks like a front-end loading of profits too.

Tie Rack

INTERIM results from Tie Rack suggest that Roy Bishko's specialist tie, scarf and fashion accessories retailer has put its house in order, with positive cash flow and a rel-

atively healthy balance sheet. Tie Rack bucked the trend as tight cost controls and improved margins helped it to a pre-tax profit of £301,000 (£972,000 loss) in the 28 weeks to August 16. Sales advanced 17.9 per cent to £253 million and about 40 per cent of total sales came from higher-margin overseas operations, cushioning the recession in Britain.

Like-for-like sales growth was 11 per cent worldwide and 16 per cent in Britain, although the comparative period was depressed by the Gulf war. The total number of stores rose by five to 262, with 121 overseas. It is now 266, with a further ten openings due in the next six months.

American losses were cut significantly after the closure of the centralised warehouse and a reduction of costs.

A cash inflow of £5 million helped turn last year's £4 million debt into a cash balance of £768,000, earning interest of £161,000, against an interest bill of £490,000 last time.

The Rack will benefit from continued overseas expansion, while further investment in Epos and information technology will also reap rewards as the group implements better and more accurate buying and bulk purchase discounts.

Much depends on second-half trading, which includes the crucial Christmas period.

Earnings stood at 0.58p (17.5p loss) a share. There is again no interim dividend but a final is hoped for.

Full-year profits are forecast to rise to £2.9 million, giving earnings of 3.5p a share. This puts the shares, up 3p to 53p, on a forward p/e multiple of 15.1.

Late rebound lifts the Nikkei to day's high

Tokyo — Shares staged a late technical rebound on futures-linked buying and the Nikkei index closed at its day's high. But trade was flat and most investors stayed away before today's national holiday and the presidential election in America, brokers said.

The Nikkei index was up 85.96 points or 0.51 per cent to 16,853.36, with about 140 million shares traded.

Sydney — Australian shares closed sharply weaker on nervousness about the outcome of the presidential election in America, a fall in local building approvals and ongoing weakness in the Australian dollar. Brokers also said a late sell-off on the futures market, put pressure on the stock market. The All-Ordinaries index closed down 15.6 points at 1410.2.

Dow awaits election news

New York — Wall Street stocks retained most gains in late-morning activity but traders said there was little genuine interest as participants were mainly focusing on the impending presidential election. Wall Street has risen on 14 of the last 16 pre-presidential election Mondays.

Tom Luken, head of the

Frankfurt — Shares in German engineering firms, hit recently by the slowdown in the German economy and the rise in the value of the mark, again lagged the rest of the bourse. The Dax index ended 19.75 points lower at 1,472.57.

Hong Kong — Shares finished firmer in light trading, with steep initial advances trimmed by profit-taking. The Hang Seng index put on 40.48 points to close at 6,231.17.

Singapore — Share prices rose strongly on heavy across-the-board buying. The 30-share Straits Times industrial index ended 30.54 points up at 1,417.54 on volume of 133.60 million shares against 133.35 million on Friday.

Reuter

Iata says airlines will lose \$2.5bn

From Reuter in Geneva

WORLD airlines, still hit by recession, are expected to lose \$2.5 billion this year, bringing their losses in three years to more than \$9 billion, the International Air Transport Association said.

Gunter Eger, director-general of Iata, who presented its annual report in Montreal yesterday, warned airlines not to expect any significant turnaround in their fortunes until 1994, well after the world economy starts any recovery.

"It would be foolish to guess the result for 1993 but nobody should bet on the Iata airlines as a group making a profit on their international services," said Mr Eger.

"We are not expecting a solid turnaround until 1994." Already hit by recession, many airlines suffered significant losses because of the 1991 Gulf war. Combined losses in 1991 were \$4 billion after a \$2.7 billion loss in 1990.

"More than \$9 billion in three years — that's more than all the profits the airlines made in the 1980s," Mr Eger said.

It was partly due to a 1980s boom in air travel that losses have been so high in the past few years. When the global economy edged towards recession at the turn of the decade, very few big carriers were willing to cut back on costs. Instead they tried to hang on to market share and were forced to cut prices.

Since then traffic and yields have remained too low, capacity and unit costs too high. "That is why 900 aircraft are quite literally parked in the desert of Arizona," Mr Eger said.

But the Iata director-general added that although the past two years had been disastrous for many individual airlines, they had not been "a totally negative experience for our industry".

"The economic difficulties in 1990-92 have forced the airlines to try to put their houses in order, particularly in controlling costs and becoming more productive," he said.

According to Iata figures, member airlines cut staff by 3.4 per cent last year to about 1,450,000 after an increase of the same magnitude in 1990.

THE water companies seem to have lost none of their appeal among City fund managers, who seemed quite happy to chase them sharply higher before the start of the interim dividend season today with figures Thames Water.

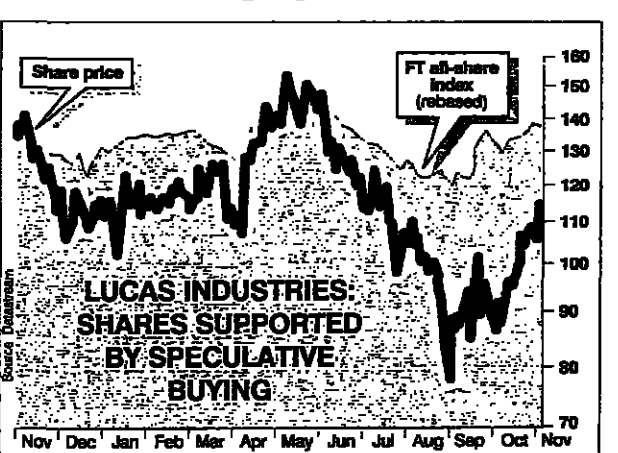
BZW yesterday joined a growing list of securities houses recommending clients take advantage of the sector during the reporting season over next few weeks. Thames, up 11p at 492p, is expected to weigh in with interim pre-tax profits up from £118 million to £130 million and a near-10 per cent rise in the dividend.

Rival County NatWest says Thames is expected to provide a sensible benchmark for the rest of the sector.

Gains were seen in Anglian, 15p to 468p, Northumbria, 10p to 550p, North West, 10p to 474p, Severn Trent, 13p to 450p, Southern, 12p to 447p, South West, 9p to 487p, Welsh, 16p to 515p, Wessex, 13p to 568p, and Yorkshire, 15p to 521p.

The rest of the equity market began the new two-week account on a hesitant note with investors unwilling to open fresh positions before polling in the US presidential elections and the vote on Maastricht in the House of Commons tomorrow.

Turnover remained thin with only 519 million shares changing hands, but share prices enjoyed a late surge in response to a firm start to trading on Wall Street where the Dow Jones average had an 11-point opening gain. Bro-



kers in London complained there was little substance to the rally which saw the FT-SE 100 index close at its best of the day 29.5 up at 2,687.8. Blue Circle Industries, Britain's biggest cement producer, extended its strong run with

Kingfisher, the B&Q, Comet and Woolworth stores group, eased 2p to 530p and WH Smith 'A' fell 3p to 473p as Kleinwort Benson took both companies off its buy list. Kleinwort is beginning to worry that the recent base rate cut will not be enough to revive consumer confidence.

speculative buying lifting the price another 8p to 175p. Blue Circle is still seen as a potential target for Hanson, 2p dearer at 230p, should it decide not to contest the higher offer from Tomkins for

RHM. There is also persistent talk that Lafarge, the French cement maker, wants to buy a near 30 per cent of BCI. United Biscuits, the McVitie and Crawford food group, is also seen as a target for Hanson. The shares recovered an early setback to finish unchanged at 240p.

Meanwhile, Ranks Hovis McDougall ended at 263p after going ex-dividend, while Tomkins climbed 11p to 223p. The underwriting for the Tomkins rights issue has been completed and chairman Greg Hinchings has begun a series of presentations for institutions.

British Steel suffered an early marketdown, touching 44p before later rallying to close all-square at 47p as brokers continued to take a dim view of prospects in the wake of recent gloomy figures. Smith New Court is a seller of British Steel and has increased

its forecast of pre-tax losses for the current year from £50 million to £165 million. It is also forecasting a loss of £150 million for 1993. Smith says that against such a backdrop and with the dividend likely to fall to just 1p, the shares should be trading at about 20p.

Granada climbed 13p to 298p helped by a revaluation of the BSkyB satellite broadcasting operation carried out by Hoare Govett. Hoare has calculated on its cash flow estimates that the business is now worth about £3 billion, good news for Granada, which has a stake in BSkyB along with Pearson, 15p better at 363p, and News International, publisher of The Times, 19p higher at 555p.

Rank Organisation, the leisure and hotels group, eased 5p to 581p after announcing the disposal of its Gloucester

Stockbroker Panmure Gordon confirms prospects for the engineering industry remain bleak. Panmure says sell Roll-Royce, unchanged at 130p, and Vickers, 1p firmer at 80p, and buy Smiths Industries at 315p, 4p GKN, 1p up at 402p and Vespene Thompson, down 2p at 394p.

Hotel to CDI. Hotels for £67.5 million. The company says it is pleased with the price and says the deal enhances earnings. Rank has been disposing of hotels in an attempt to reduce borrowings estimated at £1

billion and recently put 17 provincial hotels on the market.

The group gave a presentation to analysts last week at which it said it had not seen any pick-up in trading conditions, or the economy. The fact that trading conditions had not deteriorated any further was regarded positively by the brokers.

Lucas Industries, the automotive parts group, surged 11p to 115p as it continued to soothe institutional fears about the recent boardroom bust-up that resulted in the departure of Tony Edwards as group managing director. Meanwhile, the group remains a prime takeover target with Mannesmann of Germany, Siebe, up 6p at 343p, and BTR, 6p at 292p, all mentioned as potential suitors.

Stag Furniture jumped 21p to 96p. The company says it has received an approach which may lead to an offer. Bid hopes lifted Royal Insurance 6p to 233p. The speculators are still talking about a bid from Allianz, the German financial services group.

Prudential, a firm market last week, spent a volatile session closing just 2p lighter at 276p, after touching extremes of 282p and 270p. The group gave a presentation yesterday producing re-stated profits on its life and pension business showing it in a flattering light.

MICHAEL CLARK

Nissan slumps to first net loss for 41 years

FROM REUTERS IN TOKYO

NISSAN, caught between shrinking sales and unyielding costs, reported its first net loss for decades, in half-year results announced yesterday. The company — the second biggest car maker in Japan and fourth in the world — incurred net losses of ¥21.99 billion (£114 million) in the six months to end-September, the first net loss since the company listed its shares on the Tokyo stock exchange in 1951.

Nissan said it expects to break even in the second half, still leaving it with an annual loss. However, industry analysts believe that the company

may have to wait until 1995 for a profit. Atsushi Muramatsu, executive vice-president, said: "Our performance reflects the sluggish state of the Japanese market."

"The business results of the first half of fiscal 1992-3 were disappointing for our investors and for the management, mainly because of simultaneous depression in the three major markets — Japan, the United States and the European Community."

"Hopefully, domestic car sales will start recovering in the second half of calendar

1993... I expect a modest profit in fiscal 1993-4." Domestic sales are expected to recover soon, but analysts said the rise will not be dramatic and that Nissan may not be the first to benefit.

Car sales have taken a beating because of Japan's slowing economy. The Japan Automobile Dealers Association (Jada) said that vehicle sales in October fell 13.6 per cent from a year earlier, the fourth consecutive monthly decline. Nissan's sales took a worse beating than most, falling 23.2 per cent in October year-on-year. In the January to

October period, overall sales fell a less drastic 6.5 per cent, but Nissan's slid 10.9 per cent. Nissan announced in August it would not pay a half-year dividend and would reduce its workforce by 4,000 from 56,000 over the next three years through natural retirement and reduced recruitment.

The company has been cutting production in selected factories and slashing capital spending. As recently as 1990, Nissan was reporting record sales and profits, and ploughing earnings back into research and capital investment.

THE absence of continental investors left government securities nursing falls of more than 1% at the longer end, with prices drifting on lack of support.

Worries about tomorrow's Commons vote on Maastricht and the outlook for the

economy saw prices at the longer end struggling to retain some of their recent gains. There were falls for issues such as Treasury 8% per cent 2017, down £17.16 at £98. On the futures market, activity was also at a low ebb. The long gilt suffered an early

markdown and spent the rest of the session trading in narrow limits. It closed 21 ticks down at £100.11/32 as only 20,000 contracts were completed. At the shorter end of the market, Exchequer 104 per cent 1995 added £7.32 to £108.71/16.

THE TIMES RENTALS

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Hepworth	250p (+10p)

RECENT ISSUES	
Chubb Security	185 +2
Dorling Kindersley (185)	211
Frans & Co PEP Inv Trst	102
Jos Holdings Capital	31 -2
Jos Holdings Income	91 -1
Jos Zero Div Pfr	104
Linx Printing Techs (130)	148
Tepnel Diagnostics (120)	171
Trinity (120)	134
Verdon (45)	49
Wetherpoon (J.D) (165)	168

Closing Prices Page 27

Coal contract makes no sense

Michael Heseltine's review of the power industry is again beginning to look less than serious. Industry leaders are now confident that the contract between British Coal and the power generators and distributors will be signed, in the form basically agreed in September, before the review is even completed. Tim Eggar, the energy minister who pressed hard previously for the contract negotiations to be completed, appears to have no objection to the contract being signed. Yet this contract agreement delivered the arithmetic which forced British Coal to announce the closure of 31 pits. That decision sparked the review; signing the contract before the review is complete could pre-empt it. Indeed, as Neil Clarke, the British Coal chairman, has admitted, the further step down from 40 million to 30 million tonnes, agreed after one or two years, would leave a further six pits in limbo.

Signing the contract would not of itself rule out higher sales of coal, but it would remove whatever free market bargaining power British Coal still has. The cut in coal sales envisaged in future years was a particularly odd element, since British Coal was, in effect, giving the generators time to prepare for higher imports as well as accommodating gas-fired stations. The gas supply contracts, by contrast, were on a 15-year take-or-pay basis. If coal sales were increased after the review, the electricity industry would be in a strong position to demand subsidy if it had the coal contract in its pocket. What is the hurry? The generators are in no danger of running out of coal and, given the review, British Coal now has little to lose by keeping its options open.

The momentum for signing seems to spring more from the old Whitehall energy department, now subsumed within the DTI, to clear the whole thing, in order to speed coal privatisation and make sure there were no bars to selling the government's remaining 40 per cent stakes in National Power and PowerGen. Mr Heseltine ought to have his own department under control by now.

Not grounded

Trying to cope with the mess caused by the likely demise of an independent Dan-Air, Mr Heseltine has been on stronger ground. The long-standing multi-airline policy has won some notable gains for the consumer, but has forever been up against market forces pushing one independent after another to the wall. The rapid evolution of a few dominant world-scale airlines has also left the multi-airline policy looking out of date. Enhancing domestic competition too often meant taking routes or slots away from BA, damaging Britain's only contender for the super league. A British Airways takeover of Dan-Air was far from being the ideal solution, not least because it extends the airline's dominance from Heathrow to Gatwick. The only immediately available alternative was probably to let Dan-Air fade away and parcel its best routes out to others. BA could bargain on its own terms and has avoided any competitive *quid pro quo*. It should gain the disproportionate benefit of developing a new low-cost centre at Gatwick that could provide a model for other parts of the group. The deal is not, however, without risks for BA despite the nominal initial cost. The group has several deals on the go which will already stretch its resources.

Remaining healthy independents such as British Midland and Virgin should no longer expect to be drip-fed at the expense of BA. They do have a strong case for asking the government to spell out precisely what its airline policy will be in the future.

Political events have dealt Howard Davies a winning hand in the drive to form new industrial policy. Ross Tienan writes

Howard Davies, the director-general of the Confederation of British Industry, has a twinkle in his eye and a lot of cards up his sleeve. Events and government errors have conspired to present Mr Davies with an opportunity to exert real influence on government policy unparalleled in the CBI's 27-year history. He will not pass up the chance.

A little over ten years ago, a former CBI director-general, Sir Terence Beckett, promised a "bare-knuckle fight" with Margaret Thatcher's government over industrial strategy. For his pains, the CBI was sent into the outer circle of advisers for almost a decade. Just four months ago, when Mr Davies surrendered control of the Audit Commission to succeed Sir John Banham as chief officer of the CBI on July 1, friends questioned his wisdom. Putting industry's pleas to government for a five year term would be, they suggested, a thankless, even tedious, task.

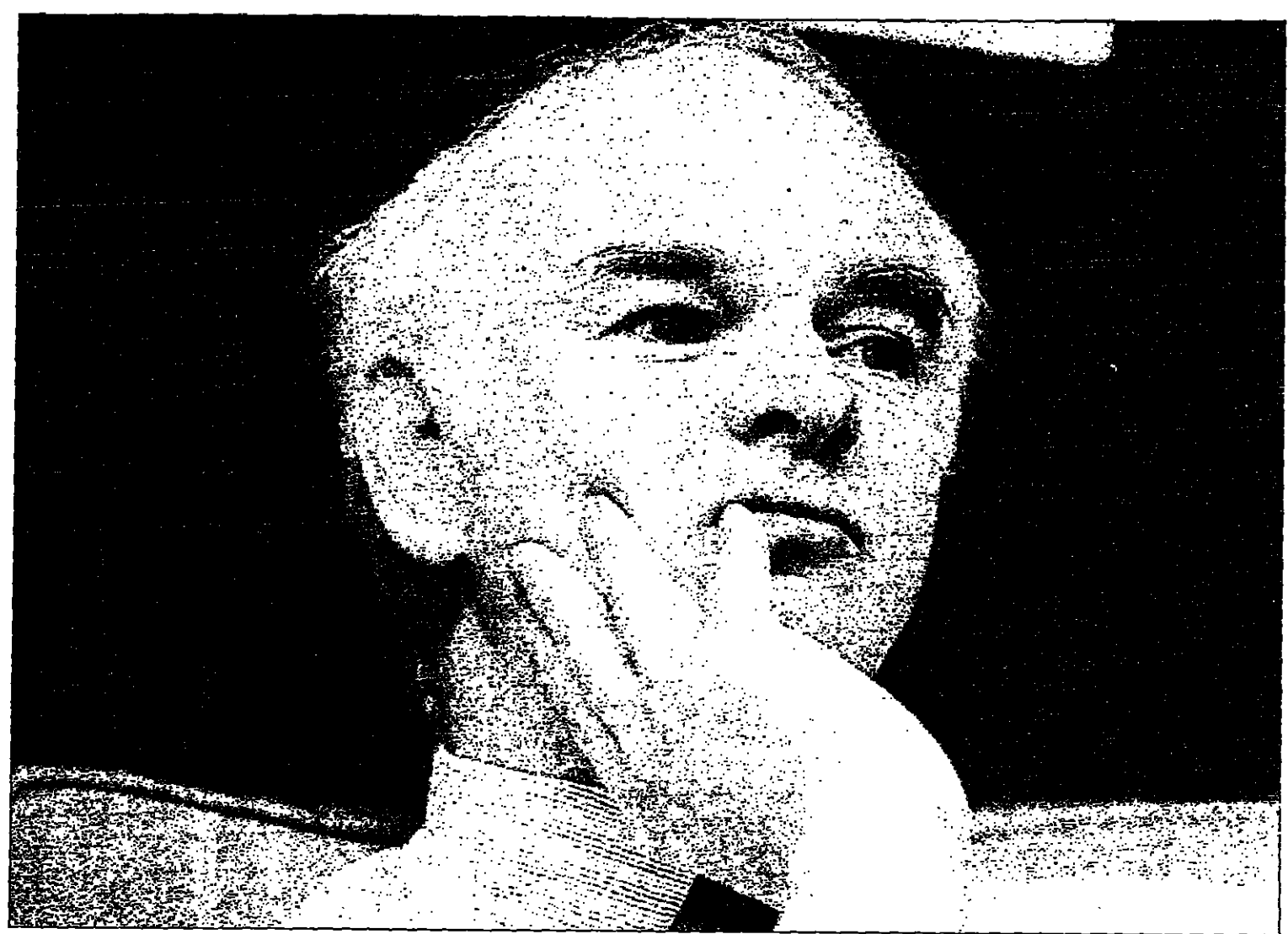
The sceptics were clearly wrong. Within weeks of Mr Davies' arrival in the brown office on the tenth floor of the CBI's Centropoint headquarters in London, the strains within the European monetary system were beginning to show. The CBI's industrial trends surveys, regarded as one of the best barometers of Britain's economy, started to show an alarming downturn.

The choice of a director-general who had seen service as a policy adviser in the Treasury soon looked extremely shrewd. Events were moving so fast that the CBI felt obliged to begin proposing shifts in economic policy.

By the end of July, Mr Davies was calling for concerted action across Europe to reduce interest rates. He issued a warning that "unilateral devaluation of sterling within the European exchange-rate mechanism has little to commend it". Devaluation, he said, would leave the government without a credible anti-inflation strategy and "the UK's standing in Europe could be damaged". On the domestic front, Mr Davies urged the use of fiscal policy to revive the economy, holding down public sector pay in order to maintain infrastructure spending programmes.

The enforced devaluation of sterling in mid-September, and the subsequent uncertainty in government economic strategy, has played into Mr Davies' hands. Looking back, he defends the CBI's position vigorously.

"I inherited a position in which we supported ERM entry," he says. When he asked members if they were



Employing diplomacy: Howard Davies, director-general of the CBI, has forged closer links with the Trades Union Congress

competitive at DM2.80 they said yes, but "there was a problem with the dollar-related economies". He added: "Our analysis was that the economy was not coming out of recession and that what should be done was concerted action against interest rates on a European basis." If the Germans were not happy with that, they should raise taxes, he argued.

The pound's departure from the ERM, and the subsequent hiatus over policy, has given rise to a partial rethink. The pound's withdrawal exposed a lack of confidence between German and British authorities, which makes any early return to the ERM impossible, he adds. Many CBI members were furious with the way events unfolded. A sterling devaluation may make British exports more competitive, but it also devalues the assets of overseas companies that have invested in Britain, and raises fears among them about Britain's commitment to Europe. The CBI has no doubt that Britain should ratify the Maastricht treaty at the earliest opportunity.

Twenty-seven of Britain's most prominent businessmen, headed by Sir Michael Angus, the CBI president, declared their support for the treaty in a letter to *The Times* yesterday.

Business leaders are also keen as

ever to have stable exchange rates to underpin their overseas business. Mr Davies says either a policy of "fixed, but adjustable" exchange rates, or a European single currency, would find supporters at the CBI. But a policy of rigidly fixed exchange rates makes no sense unless the goal is a single currency, he says. With that in mind, the CBI's economic affairs committee has begun campaigning for a "more independent" Bank of England, arguing that unless an institution more like the Bundesbank is created, the transition to a single currency managed by a European central bank could not be achieved. Such moves would enjoy Mr Davies' personal support.

In the policy vacuum created by the withdrawal of sterling from the ERM, such proposals are likely to receive a new hearing. But there is more to Mr Davies than a new tone in CBI economic policy. The CBI developed in the mid-sixties as a counterweight to the rising power of the trade unions under a Labour government.

During the past decade, the Trades Union Congress has been marginalised even more than the CBI. At the beginning of September, Mr Davies accepted an invitation from the TUC to become the first

bosses' representative to address congress.

When he walked up to the microphone in the Winter Gardens at Blackpool, Arthur Scargill, the miners' leader, and 40 followers walked out. But in a virtuoso performance, Mr Davies made fun of former minister David Mellor, told jokes about football (he is a keen Manchester City fan), called for a public sector pay freeze, and walked away with his scalp still attached. He also promised an open door to TUC leaders. That promise has been kept.

The CBI and the TUC are now exploring areas of common cause, such as encouraging the government to invest in infrastructure and training. "There is still an underlying difference of view about how the economy works," Mr Davies says. "You are better off talking about individual components than trying to form some tripartite view" between industry, unions and government.

Mr Davies welcomes today's meeting between the Chancellor and the TUC. The TUC has a legitimate point of view, he says, and while they may differ on the need for public sector pay restraint, "they also have some firm things to say about managerial pay".

It is the knack of viewing policy options objectively, and leaving

their presentation with humour, combined with an insider's knowledge of Whitehall, that makes Mr Davies a formidable lobbyist for industry. But it is the government's weakness that he believes will make that dirty old manufacturing exceptional effective. The CBI sees public opinion on its side. After a decade of being told that dirty old manufacturing was destined to be replaced by service sector jobs as Britain moved into a post-industrial phase, the CBI's assertion of the need for a strong industrial base has abruptly become the new orthodoxy.

The debate about objectives has been won. John Major has promised to put industrial growth at the centre of his policies. The CBI does not have a monopoly of industrial wisdom, but it believes it knows more about the policies needed to achieve a resurgence of Britain's manufacturing base than the government, and Mr Davies is not afraid to say so.

Yesterday afternoon, Mr Davies met the prime minister to outline CBI thinking. Next week, in his maiden speech to delegates at the CBI's annual conference in Harrogate, he will offer the government a "partnership" to rebuild the economy. Doubtless he will do so with politeness and tact, but there should be no mistaking the message. Howard Davies knows who holds the aces.

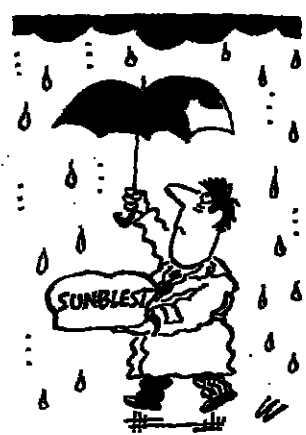
THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Whose line is it anyway?

CIGARS and black ties were everywhere when Lennox Lewis thrashed Donovan Razzouk at the weekend, but one particularly fat cigar was nowhere to be seen. Keen-eyed City observers may have been wondering what had happened to Roger Levitt, the financier who brought Lewis back from Canada in 1989 and backed him until the Levitt Group collapsed in December 1990. Levitt, known for his trademark bowtie and Davidoff cigars, is, of course, awaiting trial charged with offences alleging fraudulent trading, theft, false accounting and forgery. In March 1991, however, three months after his arrest, he was triumphantly photographed with Lewis, proclaiming his comeback as commercial manager to the heavyweight boxer. Strange then that it was Frank Maloney who appeared as Lewis's manager in all the photo-calls after the fight. Levitt was not at home yesterday, to clarify his position, but his wife gave his office number which, the City Diary discovered, was the same as Maloney's. "Roger Levitt has nothing to do with Lennox Lewis," insists Maloney. "I have been his manager since 1989, a low profile manager." So why was Levitt using the same telephone number? "That has nothing to do with us."

Maastricht mates

THE Maastricht treaty may be dividing the Tory party, but it seems to be healing old wounds in business, to judge by a letter published in *The*



Times yesterday from leading industrialists, in support of the treaty. Led by Sir Michael Angus, CBI president, the signatories included both Dick Evans, chief executive of British Aerospace, and Professor Sir Roland Smith, the former BAE chairman who was unceremoniously ousted by the BAE board just over a year ago. Securing the signatures of the two men did not involve a face-to-face meeting but the CBI may yet bring that about. As chairman of BAE, Smith was elected to the CBI's president's council and he has retained that seat since he remains chairman of Hepworth, the building group. Traditionally, however, BAE has a place on the president's council, too, and the CBI might soon extend an invitation to Evans, already heavily involved in its national manufacturing council. "Dick Evans may be invited to join," confirms Angus, who resists the idea that the two have so far been diplomatically kept apart. "Clearly there was some disagreement in the past but I've never thought of them as mortal enemies. People are usually quite grown up about these things."

Trusty Tim

TIM Miller, who was ousted as marketing director of fund management and investment group M&G last month, and who has long been known in the industry for his ethical, anti-hard sell stance, has been appropriately rewarded. The Securities and Investments Board has just hired him to produce a report on whether the investment industry is selling the right products to the right people. Miller, the man behind the successful launch of M&G's first investment trust — last year — which raised £246 million, has until the end of the year to complete his study.

Cheyne talk

STRAIGHT from the hot seat at Lloyds Bank, where he is chairman of the 11 lending banks trying to recover the £500 million they lent to Canary Wharf, Iain Cheyne — an insolvency lawyer turned banker — will tonight be briefing a seminar on insolvency. Cheyne is the latest guest speaker at the monthly seminars held for banking lawyers at City solicitors Watson, Farley & Williams. Cheyne, 50, says that his first contact with a big business collapse came in 1972 when he was the lawyer at Lloyds responsible for winding up Rolls-Royce after its failure. Twenty years on, he says the attitude of the banks could not be more different. "Now that we are closer to our customers," he says. "We rescue companies rather than let them go down." Some of his customers, however, might not agree.

CAROL LEONARD

BUSINESS LETTERS

Support for the Inland Revenue

From Mr Edward Askwith
Sir, Mr RS Guha's experience in applying for tax rebates (October 28) is exactly opposite to mine. Ever since retirement some 15 years ago, I have handled my own tax matters, and during this period I have experienced nothing but helpfulness and efficiency from the Inland Revenue.

In applying for a small rebate of some £27 earlier this year, I had to deal with three different tax districts in various parts of the country. In every case I was dealt with

promptly and courteously, even to the final point when a nice lady from Leicester telephoned me to tell me that a remittance was on its way. Indeed it was; it arrived the very next day!

Thank you, Inland Revenue. Count me in as one of your supporters. I hope Mr Guha's future dealings with you may be happier.

Yours faithfully,
EDWARD ASKWITH,
Merry Meadows,
Perry Green,
Much Hadham,
Hertfordshire.

UK financial system stuck in last century

From Ms Lesley Abдела
Sir, Leaving aside whether the present Chancellor is able by temperament to promote expansion, the most significant question UK plc needs to address is whether the way this country finances growth is, like the United States, just too simple for our needs.

Not only may economic growth require a new Chancellor, the economy may have to undergo an overhaul in the

way it provides finance if we are to utilise the tremendous energies and ideas of a highly resourceful populace, including our 29 million women.

The engines of finance seem firmly stuck in Victorian times. Select committees/Treasury/No. 11, please note.

Yours faithfully,
LESLEY ABDELA,
The Lodge,
Concok Manor
Wiltshire.

Lloyds fully supports British exports

From Mr Michael Riding
Sir, Following Mr Routs' letter on the problems his company experienced on renewing export related borrowing facilities, I would like to reassure our customers that we are fully committed to supporting British exports.

The ECGD scheme referred to in the letter is under review, but this is not as a result of fraud. Earlier this year ECGD was sold to NCM Credit Insurance Ltd. Lloyds Bank is currently in negotiation with NCM over certain technical changes which affect the scheme.

Customers with a Lloyds Bank Finesse Scheme, backed

by ECGD credit insurance, are being offered alternative financing on renewal and such an offer was made to Mr Routs. The Bank has a comprehensive range of products and services for British exporters and will continue to support fully this vital area of business.

We take our relations with our customers very seriously and always regret it when a valued customer feels the need to change banks. Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL RIDING,
UK Retail Banking,
Lloyds Bank Plc,
PO Box 112, Canons House,
Canons Way, Bristol.



The automatic Chronograph GP 7000.

This chronograph has a mechanical, selfwinding movement. Its waterproof case is available in a variety of combinations, such as steel, steel and yellow or pink metal or silver with pink metal as well as in 18 ct yellow or pink gold. The face comes in a wide range of colours and shows the hours, minutes, seconds and date — plus the total of the hours and minutes in the chronograph mode. The bracelets come in steel, steel and yellow or pink metal, 18 ct gold or in exclusive hand-sewn leather.

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THE TIMES UNIT TRUST INFORMATION SERVICE

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No	Company	Group	Share of 100
1	Reliance	Banking	100
2	De La Rue	Industrial	100
3	Marine Systems	Industrial	100
4	Security Services	Industrial	100
5	Widely	Industrial	100
6	Widely	Industrial	100
7	Scottish Power	Electricity	100
8	RTZ	Mining	100
9	Wellcome	Pharmaceuticals	100
10	Hydro-Electric	Electricity	100
11	British	Property	100
12	Yorkshire	Electricity	100
13	British	Electricity	100
14	Asahi	Industrial	100
15	South West	Water	100
16	Royal	Insurance	100
17	Flint Art Dev	Dispersal	100
18	British	Electricity	100
19	British	Electricity	100
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BANKS, DISCOUNT, HP

Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
Barclays	100.00	100.00	100.00	First National	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bank of Scotland	100.00	100.00	100.00	London City	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bank of Ireland	100.00	100.00	100.00	Paragon	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bank of Wales	100.00	100.00	100.00	Prudential	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bank of Cyprus	100.00	100.00	100.00	Standard Life	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bank of Greece	100.00	100.00	100.00	Swire	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bank of China	100.00	100.00	100.00	Union Bank	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bank of India	100.00	100.00	100.00	Windsor	100.00	100.00	100.00
Bank of Japan	100.00	100.00	100.00				

BREWERIES

Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
Adnams	100.00	100.00	100.00	Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00
Anchor	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00	Heineken	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Heineken	100.00	100.00	100.00
Heineken	100.00	100.00	100.00	Heineken	100.00	100.00	100.00
Heineken	100.00	100.00	100.00	Heineken	100.00	100.00	100.00
Heineken	100.00	100.00	100.00	Heineken	100.00	100.00	100.00
Heineken	100.00	100.00	100.00	Heineken	100.00	100.00	100.00
Heineken	100.00	100.00	100.00	Heineken	100.00	100.00	100.00

BUILDING, ROADS

Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
Adnams	100.00	100.00	100.00	Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00
Anchor	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
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Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00

Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
Adnams	100.00	100.00	100.00	Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00
Anchor	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
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Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00

BUSINESS SERVICES

Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
Adnams	100.00	100.00	100.00	Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00
Anchor	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00

CHEMICALS, PLASTICS

Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
Adnams	100.00	100.00	100.00	Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00
Anchor	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00

DRAPEY, STORES

Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
Adnams	100.00	100.00	100.00	Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00
Anchor	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
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Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00

ELECTRICALS

Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
Adnams	100.00	100.00	100.00	Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00
Anchor	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00

Late advance

ACCOUNT DAYS: Dealings began November 2. Dealings end November 13. Contango day November 16. Settlement day November 23. Forward margins are permitted on two previous business days. Prices recorded are at market close. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
Adnams	100.00	100.00	100.00	Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00
Anchor	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
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Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00

ELECTRICITY

Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
Adnams	100.00	100.00	100.00	Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00
Anchor	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
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FINANCE, LAND

Company	Price	High	Low	Company	Price	High	Low
Adnams	100.00	100.00	100.00	Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00
Anchor	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
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FINANCIAL TRUSTS

Adnams	100.00	100.00	100.00	Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00
Anchor	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
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Beck's	100.00	100.00	100.00	Carlsberg	100.00	100.00	100.00
Beck's	100.						

MANAGEMENT

In a spirit of change

David Walker looks at the way local government is adapting to meet the needs of the people it serves

Swansea's recent effort to monitor public satisfaction with services went, if anything, too well. Councilors wondered how they were to keep abreast of information flooding in about public preferences.

Bromley, in south London, is very different from the Welsh town, in politics no less than topography. Yet its councilors, too, have struggled with the paper trail generated in a modern local authority. Different places but they reached for a common solution: information technology.

In Swansea, personal computers are being installed in the homes of leading councilors, giving them access to a town hall data base. In Bromley both majority party and opposition councilors are (along with most officials) "on line", allowing them to call up in their homes committee minutes and information on queries and complaints from the public.

Bromley and Swansea are similar in another way. They are examples of local innovation: no Whitehall official whispered in the ear of Nigel Park, Bromley's chief executive; no minister chivvied Trevor Burtonshaw, Swansea's chief.

In the eyes of town and county halls, ministers often err. They assume that because so much policy and new law has been heaped on local government from the centre, that all councils do is react. It is now a year since the government published its green paper on the way local authorities organise themselves. As state papers go, it was hardly Whitehall's most polished product. Basic questions, such as how many councilors are actually necessary, were left up in the air. Worse, it seemed out of touch with the ways in which council man-

agers are reshaping operations.

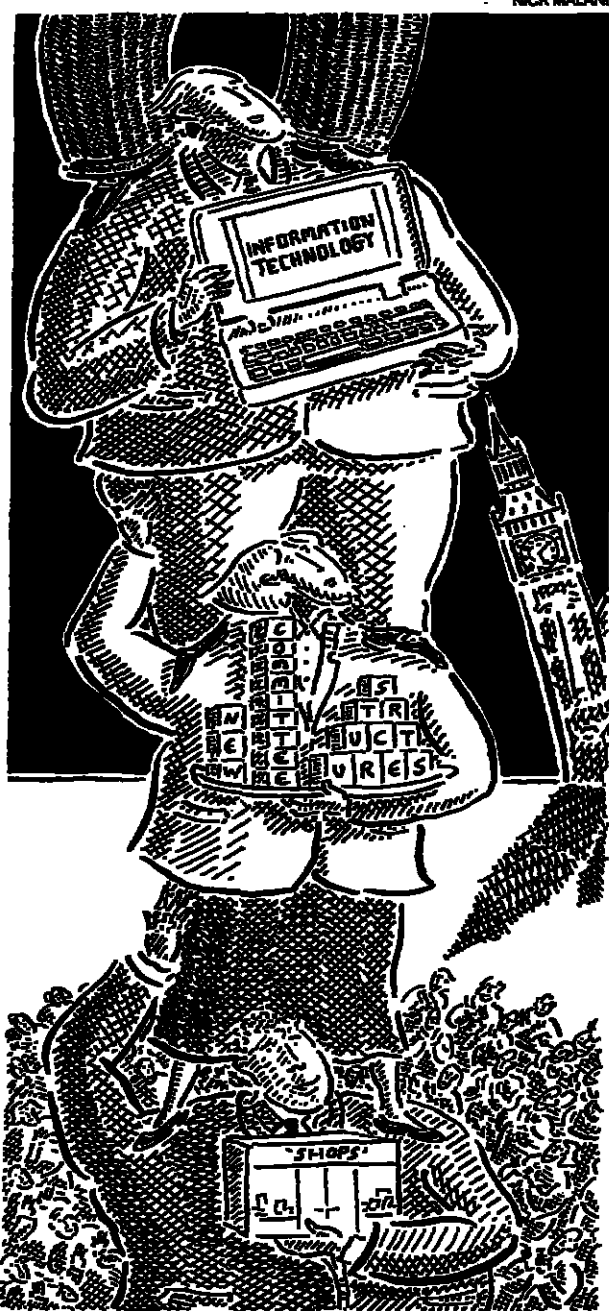
Consider another couple of places (the illustrations come from a new report by the Local Government Management Board). Harborough is the shire district that stretches from the outskirts of Leicester through Market Harborough to the old coaching town of Lutterworth astride the A5. A majority of its members are Tory, but they lack overall control. It is not, at first glance, an obvious place for go-ahead organisational development.

Yet Harborough has been abolishing committees. In municipal terms this is a veritable revolution: it has dropped all its sub-committees and focused new powers in its housing and other principal committees. The time it takes to make a decision has been cut and, a bonus, the agendas for council meetings lightened.

North Tyneside, the metropolitan district centred on North Shields has, by contrast, proudly created some new committees. Entire social groups, children, young people, women and the elderly, lacked a voice. So, alongside its housing and social services committees, new panels have been established to speak up for them and, as necessary, challenge mainstream policies and priorities.

Clearly, what is perceived as a managerial priority on Tyneside may not even exist as an issue in Devon. Yet, according to LGMB, there are broad trends apparent in the managerial innovations it charts. Both Tory Essex and Labour Copeland (on the Cumbrian coast) now have sophisticated statements of corporate purpose designed to guide day-by-day decisions in the light of longer-term ambitions.

The government's green paper wrung its hands over the quality of councilors. But



already some local authorities have active programmes to train newly-elected members to undertake what are often sophisticated managerial roles. Councils may be facing the same imperatives — responding to the Citizen's

councillors and voluntary sector representatives — to speak for each of the four small towns it contains, with a further panel for the rural parishes. South Somerset meanwhile has literally split itself — its staff and services — into four parts, based on offices in Chard, Somerset, Wincanton and Yeovil.

Getting On With It, the LGMB's report, notes that while the spirit of change is everywhere, it speaks to councils in markedly different ways. Some have rebuilt their committee architecture; others brought forward councilors to undertake explicit management roles.

Such changes require officers and elected members to re-equip themselves, to alter their ways. Bedfordshire recently appointed an internal ombudsman with a brief to ensure that just that complaints were redressed but that county managers absorbed the lessons they offered.

The green paper, ominously, hinted at even tighter, more uniform rules about how local authorities should conduct their business. According to the local authorities, it is that impulse, towards national rules, which prohibits experiment such as Bedfordshire's which other councils can then adapt or reject, according to local conditions.

There have to be ground rules set nationally on, say, the ratio of population to councilors; or how they get paid. But legislation passed during the 1980s with the best of intentions — for example to minimise cross-party unfairness in committee assignments, and to remedy some of the municipal new left's abuses — may already be preventing councils working out the best way to take and implement decisions in the light of their diverse circumstances.

Getting On With It, Volume 11 LGMB, *Arts and Leisure*, The Arnold Centre, Luton LU1 2TS. Tel: 0582 451155

The arts: investment or indulgence?

David Mellor's ill-fated occupancy of the newly created Department of National Heritage may have made the arts headline news but did little to help funding at the local level. While the South Bank mourned his departure, arts administrators and politicians in the regions were more ambivalent.

Expenditure on the arts by local authorities has fallen by over 9 per cent in the past year and this reflects not just a tightening of belts but a rethink of the conventional wisdom that the arts are a good economic investment. The view that the arts has a multiplier effect on the local economy is being challenged by those who still see the arts as a consumer not generator of resources.

This represents an enormous reversal on the position five years ago when John Myerscough's book *The Economic Importance of the Arts in Britain* published by the Policy Studies Institute seemed to clinch the argument that arts expenditure was not pandering to dilettantes but made hard-headed business sense.

The Myerscough view is not, however, going to be put down easily. As Christopher Gordon of the Regional Arts Bureau which co-ordinates the work of the ten regional arts boards says: "If you can encourage the live arts then it brings people into town centres, it helps to stimulate night life, it encourages people to go to restaurants, and to travel and is generally good for the service econ-

When councils start to tighten their belts, the first victim is often the arts

rivalry often get in each other's way. Exactly how the arts council, the ten regional arts boards, and the initiatives taken by local councils fit together is one of the most controversial issues in the politics of arts administration.

The people in the firing line, torn between local and regional allegiances, are the local government politicians and officials who occupy one third of the seats on regional arts boards. It is not too difficult to think of cities in the Midlands and the North, for example, whose artistic aspirations are national in character, but often this self image sits uneasily with the real source of their funding which may be local.

However, the big unknown factor coming over the horizon of arts administration is the proposed national arts lottery. Some administrators see it as the salvation for which they have waited all their professional lives. Others reckon, more cynically, that it could be just another way of cutting government expenditure, and, in effect, privatising sponsorship of the arts.

EDWARD FENNELL



High street art in Winchester: Mr Gordon with an Elisabeth Frink sculpture sponsored by the local authority

071-481 1066

PUBLIC APPOINTMENTS

FAX 071-481 9313

DIRECTOR OF SOCIAL SERVICES AND HOUSING

LONDON BOROUGH OF BROMLEY

Bromley has made significant progress in becoming an enabling Authority. It has taken up the challenge of delivering best quality services within an environment of resource constraints and is ahead of most in putting in place the changes necessary to better meet customer needs.

With a budget of £34m and 900 staff, the Director of Social Services and Housing is responsible for planning, developing and implementing Social Services and Strategic Housing Services for the Borough and its 300,000 population.

As a Member of the Chief Officers' Executive you will contribute to the corporate management of the Authority. Your strategic vision, lateral thinking and understanding of social care and housing issues will have equipped you to determine the impact of central decisions at customer level. The combination of your strong communication/presentation skills and sound

judgement will gain the commitment and confidence of both Members and Officers, and will permit you to introduce new initiatives and lead your team. Your open management style and effective delegation will allow managers to manage, and to achieve personal and departmental objectives.

You are a results-led individual whose achievements testify to your ability to deliver. With 5 years' senior management experience in Social Services and/or Housing, or a related area, you will have attained a high profile both within your own field and externally. The salary will be circa £59,000 with the opportunity to earn PRP in future years. The benefits package includes a leased car, full relocation assistance and an equity shared housing scheme in appropriate cases.

If you can meet this challenge please submit a curriculum vitae to Karen Hope, Alliance Consulting Group, 25 Buckingham Gate, London SW1E 6LD. An information pack will be sent to you if you are selected for consideration as a candidate.

Closing date for completed applications: Friday 20th November 1992.



DIRECTOR OF FINANCE

c.£45,000-£50,000 + PRP



Leicestershire Community Unit is the largest Community Unit in England and becomes the Fosse Health Trust in April 1993.

We are looking for an appropriately qualified professional with experience at a senior level in a complex large organisation, preferably within the NHS to manage the Trust's financial affairs and maximise our financial viability.

We provide an extensive range of Community and Hospital Services to the 900,000 people of Leicestershire from a network of 13 Community Hospitals and 24 Health Centres. From 1993, we will have approximately 30 fund-holding GPs. The Unit has a revenue budget of £56 million and employs over 3,400 staff.

As a Board Member, you will make a major strategic contribution to the achievement of the Trust's business objectives and will require well developed communication skills, dynamism, enthusiasm and the ability to work as part of a team. Qualities of motivation and leadership are vital as you will head a department of 25 staff.

Salary is negotiable c.£45,000-£50,000 plus other benefits including lease car, performance related pay and, in certain circumstances, relocation expenses. For an information package, please contact the Personnel Department, Leicestershire Community Unit Headquarters, Gipsy Lane, Humberstone, Leicester LE5 0TD. Tel. (0533) 460100 ext 4466.

Informal enquiries will be welcomed by Roger Bettles, Unit General Manager on ext 4424.

Closing date for receipt of completed applications: 18th November 1992.

Working towards equal opportunities.

HIGHER INTELLIGENCE OFFICERS

Central London

Vacancies exist for up to 8 Higher Intelligence Officers in the Defence Intelligence Staff in Central London.

Higher Intelligence Officers in the DIS are principally concerned with the collection, analysis, assessment and dissemination of information on the composition, organisation, doctrine, activities and capabilities of the armed forces and logistic infrastructure of certain foreign countries together with associated politico-military studies. There are also a number of posts dealing with industrial, scientific and technical information on weapons systems and associated equipments and some involving more general administrative and co-ordinating functions.

Candidates for Higher Intelligence Officer posts should be at least 30 years of age (although exceptionally good younger candidates will also be considered) with a good general education and a keen interest in and good knowledge of international affairs. Relevant experience, preferably in a responsible position in the Armed Forces or Volunteer Reserve Forces or in defence-related areas of Government service is desirable.

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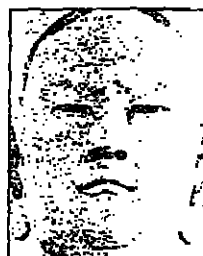
JAZZ page 30

The Albert Hall paid tribute to Miles Davis, but the show lacked the touch of the master

ARTS

MUSEUMS page 31

With a £2 million gift, the British Museum is to open a new gallery for its oriental antiquities



MUSIC: An enthusiastic welcome for the *New Oxford Book of Carols*; plus London and Birmingham concerts

'Tis the season to be authentic

An authoritative new collection is about to transform our attitude to Christmas carols. Richard Morrison sings its praises

Christmas comes early this year — on Thursday, to be precise. That is when *The New Oxford Book of Carols* thuds on to the bookshelves, and if ever an event was destined to shake up the cosy world of choirs, carols and carols, it is the publication of this 700-page epic. Bristling with footnotes, appendices and every other weapon known to modern scholarship, it has more small print than an insurance policy and bigger ambitions than a Hollywood starlet.

In short, its editors — the musicologist Hugh Keyte and the conductor Andrew Parrott — hope to change for ever the ways in which everyone from Dame Kiri Te Kanawa to the choir of King's College Cambridge sings carols. "Underlying the whole book," they write, "is the expectation that an increasing number of musicians will wish to perform the entire range of carols in an historically based 'authentic' manner."

So that's it. The cult of authenticity, having conquered every other facet of classical music, is now assaulting the last bastion of the sloppy singalong: the Christmas carol concert. No school, college, church or chapel in Britain will be safe if these dangerous men have their wicked way.

But their wicked way they should. Their book is simply magnificent. The only question is whether it is magnificent enough to persuade singers to pay £75 for £60 until December 31 for the privilege of reading, for example, 2,000 words on the misty origins of "O come, all ye faithful", or examining seven different tunes to "While shepherds watched their flocks by

night", or finding all eight verses of "The Angel Gabriel" — in the original Basque, naturally. Or even of discovering on page 655 a small but perfectly formed pronunciation guide to 15th-century English.

That is a question which will seem unneringly pertinent to the accounts at Oxford University Press. But music publishers are accustomed to making big investments in the seemingly inexhaustible market for carols, and accustomed to reaping big profits, too. It sometimes seems as if the music business would fold up without its yearly cash bonus from the Christmas period. And this whole carol industry appears to rely upon a never-ending supply of goosy, sentimental and trite "arrangements" of traditional tunes. Centuries-old carols survive plagues, purges and wars, preserved in the folk-memory of succeeding generations, only to end up being embalmed in some sub-Burt Bacharach musical graveyard.

One Cambridge-based musician has made a handsome career out of doing this work, and one does not begrudge him his annual visit from Santa Claus with a sackful of royalties. But it is time that this annual debasement of the world's greatest treasure-trove of folk tunes and poetry was shown up for the sham that it is. Oddly, OUP — with its top-selling *Carols for Choirs* series — has been the market leader in this dubious area, which almost makes its decision to back *The New Oxford Book of Carols* seem rather noble. The new book presents carols only in the manner in which they were originally sung. This is revolutionary stuff.

Its other objectives give it a significance far beyond the confines of the Christmas music market. Like a radical literature faculty at an American university, it deconstructs the accepted notion of a canon of masterpieces that are there because they're there. In come dozens of medieval Latin songs, as well as "primitive" carols from 18th-century England and America that were previously ignored because their harmonies did not conform to textbook rules. Suddenly, a heritage of superb melody has been made available to non-specialists.

Then the book spectacularly affirms that popular culture should be all about variety, not conformity. In an age when millions mouth the same Michael Jackson song with precisely the same vocal inflections as the man himself, this reminder of the robust individuality inherent in the popular culture of earlier ages lifts the spirits. When the poet Louis MacNeice made his discovery that the "World is crazier and more of it than we think —

A jolly Christmas to you

Rowdy carol singers beware! "The cult of authenticity, having conquered the rest of classical music, is now assaulting the last bastion of the sloppy singalong"

incorrigibly plural", he hardly had old carols in mind. Yet to discover that the tune now sung to "God rest you, merry gentlemen" was heard — mysteriously reshaped into dozens of different variants — right across Europe from Bulgaria to Gloucestershire, or that "While shepherds watched" has not just the seven tunes printed here, but literally hundreds, enhances one's faith in mankind's ingenuity.

Of course, the latter would have had hundreds of tunes; it was the only Christmas hymn legally permitted by the Church of England throughout most of the 18th century. But who composed all these tunes? Not skilled musicians, for the most part, but untutored amateurs, who often borrowed — perhaps at a subliminal level — scraps of melodies heard in completely different contexts. One tune given here was even adapted from an Italian opera aria by Handel.

"It would be good if the near-hegemony now enjoyed by the excellent 'Winchester New' could

give way to a little of the earlier diversity," write the editors plaintively about the solitary tune to which "While shepherds watched" is now sung. But with choirs relying on carol concerts to fill coffers, and clerics relying on carol services to fill churches, who would dare not give in to the lowest-common-denominator factor that bedevils present-day mass culture?

What this collection also demonstrates is that it was not the Victorians or us who invented the bizarre mixing of sacred and secular — of religious ritual and hedonistic excess — that characterises the modern Christmas. Whole families of ancient carols depend upon a subtle and intricate mingling of Christian and pagan imagery: the boar's head carols, for instance, which sometimes equate the roasted pig with the sacrificial Christ; or the holly-and-ivy carols, which relate to pre-Christian fertility symbols.

The book also poses questions that would make even the most jaded carolers stop and consider words sung a hundred times. How on earth did supposedly "unsophisticated" medieval peasants gradually evolve the complex web of theological allusions which make up "The Cherry Tree Carol"? It must be complex, because the Oxford editors have to reach for phrases like "Jungian shadow" to describe the cherry tree's relationship with the Cross. Or, on a more banal level, why did that eminently logical Victorian, J.M. Neale, decide (when penning "Good King Wenceslas") that his "page and monarch" should need to carry pine logs to a peasant who lives "right against the forest fence"?

Or, most controversially of all, did John Jacob Niles, the great American folk-song collector of the 1930s and 1940s, actually make up some of the carols he supposedly collected in the Appalachian mountains? Did he even invent "I wonder as I wander", the song that

many Americans regard as their finest folk-carol? Most of all, however, this super-tanker among carol-books questions the very notion of dividing "art music" from folk music. Consider "In dulci jubilo", which can be found in a thousand variants throughout the world. Is it art or folk? Art, if one considers what a majestic thing J.S. Bach made of it, or how ingeniously his German predecessors used it in their polychoral pieces. But where did they find the tune? Most scholars trace it to the 14th century mystic Heinrich Suso. And where did he get it? From the angels in a dream, he said.

Art and artlessness, the polished and the instinctive: all this is wedded together in the great carol repertory. It reminds us that mankind has an infinite capacity to renew its creative impulse, in quite unpredictable ways. That should give fresh heart to the jaded connoisseurs who think that there is nothing new left to be said.

Rowdy carol singers beware! "The cult of authenticity, having conquered the rest of classical music, is now assaulting the last bastion of the sloppy singalong"

First hearing for Messiaen's last work

OLIVIER MESSIAEN, the French composer who made complex musical masterpieces out of bird-song, died in April — but we have clearly not heard the last of his music yet. This Thursday in New York his final large-scale orchestral piece receives its world premiere. Bearing a title which is suitably redolent of eternal contemplation, *Éclairs sur l'au-delà* ("Revelation of the Beyond"), it is composed on Messiaen's usual massive scale. Its 11 movements are expected to run to around 75 minutes. The New York Philharmonic will premiere the work under Zubin Mehta's direction.

● RADIO 3 may have cut back on its drama output, but those plays which are getting through certainly catch the eye. Scheduled to go out on Sunday week, for instance, is *Vlad the Impaler*, an adaptation of *The Third Stake* by Martin Sorescu. It is said to be the first broadcast in English of a contemporary Romanian play. Written in 1978, when the Ceausescus were at the height of their demonic powers, the drama uses the story of the medieval Romanian prince — an imaginative executioner, as his nickname suggests, and the historical model for Count Dracula — as a coded means of lampooning the regime. John Hurt will head the cast in Radio 3's production.

Trained singers

GOOD news for British Rail commuters as they wait for the leaves on the line to give way to the wrong kind of snow. Fares may be up, trains may be late... but at least someone has written an opera about them. *The Station* has been composed by Howard Blake, hitherto best known for penning the music for the cartoon film of Raymond Briggs's perennial Christmas favourite, *The Snowman*. In one act, it deals with the developing relationships within a group of commuters who stand

ARTS BRIEFING

and wait on a station platform. Fittingly, it is being premiered in the heart of commuter-land, at the aptly-named Platform Theatre in Haywards Heath from November 18-21. Blake himself directs a group of young professional singers accompanied by the Duke String Quartet.

● FOR the first time a top British music conservatoire is to be headed by a woman. Next September, Dr Janet Ritterman will take over as director of the Royal College of Music, following in the footsteps of such illustrious names as Sir George Grove (of *Dictionary of Music* fame), Sir Hubert Parry (of *Jerusalem* fame) and more recently Sir David Willcocks and Michael Gough Matthews, who will retire next July. Ritterman is at present the principal of Dartington College of Arts.

Last chance...

A REGULAR visitor to these shores, George Benson remains a highly skilled entertainer, operating in a mainstream, soul-fusion vein. He is a virtuoso jazz guitarist, and an expressive singer with more than a hint of Nat King Cole in his delivery, and his show is a stylish *tour de force* which is staged in the round. Although his talents are under-employed on his most popular songs — from the proficient pop-funk of "Turn Your Love Around" to the ghastly balladry of "In Your Eyes" — he cruises the middle of the road as if he owns it. He is joined by singer Patti Austin on his current British dates which finish at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham (021-780 4133) tonight and the G-Mex in Manchester (061-832 9000) tomorrow.

CONCERTS: Stephen Pettitt on performances of Turnage, Kancheli, Brahms, Walton and Beethoven

Beauty in a perfect setting

A t Symphony Hall last Thursday, the City of Birmingham Symphony Orchestra commendably revived Mark-Anthony Turnage's *Leaving*, first heard last May, in a memorial concert for Stephen Lloyd, former chairman of the CBSO management committee and of the Feeney Trust, who died earlier this year.

The piece is less speculative, more substantial than I had suspected; for instance, the setting of Auden's "Lullaby", the heart of the work, impressively echoes the emotions and images of a complex poem. Turnage's distillation of language and his temporary eschewing of brash rhetoric in favour of line and harmony might seem backward steps. But he simply makes beautiful, strikingly individual music, overlaid with a mellow darkness — no violins or violas — which reflects well his choice of texts (as well as the Auden, he sets all or part of Plath's "Three Women" and "Not Waving but Drowning", Yeats's sensual "The Lady's Second Song" and "The Lover's Song", and Donne's peripatetic "A Hymn to God the Father").

Simon Halsey directed a fine performance, while the work's first soloists, the soprano Helen Walker and the tenor Andrew King, re-

turned with abundant confidence and sympathy. Afterwards, Robert Shaw took over the baton for Brahms's *Requiem*. His manner in this piece is traditional, heavy-weight, slow, but wise. He sustained its sombre beauties well. Tintuke Olafimihan and Andreas Schmidt were formidable soloists. The choir sang sturdily, but without Rattle in command the CBSO sounded fairly ordinary.

Alexander Lazarev, newly installed as the principal guest conductor of the BBC Symphony Orchestra, brought the Georgian composer Giya Kancheli's Fourth Symphony, "In Memoria di Michelangelo", to his Festival Hall concert with that ensemble on Saturday. This single-movement work, composed in 1975, when Kancheli was 40, but here played in this country for the first time, sustains itself impressively over its 25-minute span.

The style resembles Schnittke's abrupt collision of different musics, but Kancheli seems to be more intent on constructing a solid organism. From an effective call to



Mark-Anthony Turnage: making strikingly individual music

attention — a soft, repeated monotone on offstage bells, each sound allowed to fade to nothing — develops a music characterised by its spirituality and by its spacious, exquisitely coloured scoring, with material often based on chant-like and folk-like themes, though there is theatrical savagery too. Afterwards Tabea Zimmermann

gave a mellow, beautifully moulded reading of one of Walton's most telling and profound pieces, the Viola Concerto, with Lazarev and the orchestra alert and responsive partners. But the performance of Beethoven's Seventh Symphony which followed the interval was an untidy, ill-considered, tired and dull reading, at least until the

finale, where all hell was let loose. Beethoven might often benefit from a certain rawness, but it helps to do a little careful balancing, the more so when your horns are apt to make such a mess of things.

Libor Pesek, stern of face but clearly more inspired in intent, could have taught Lazarev a thing or two in his own compelling reading of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony at the Barbican on Sunday. The real testing ground in this work is the slow movement, in which Pesek gauged pace, phrase and colour to perfection. But he also communicated a sense of genuinely fresh excitement, to which the London Symphony Orchestra and Chorus responded magnificently.

A pity that the powerful soloists — Nancy Gustafson, Linda Fennie, Dennis O'Neill and Michael Druitt (wayward in his opening solo) — performed with about as much teamwork as a split Cabinet. Such an accusation would be impossible to level at the LSO's playing — with their fine principal violinist, Paul Silverthorne — of the evening's bonus, Martinu's mellow Rhapsody-Concerto of 1952, a warm, slow and tender piece touched by piquancy of rhythm and harmony.

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SCHUBERTIAD: An evening of Schubert's songs (An Silas, Im Alexander, Dr. Wollner and Dr. Fuchsling) plus piano duets (Fantasia for Piano Duo in F minor, the Rondo for Piano Duo in D major and two Grandes Marches) with Benjamin Luxon, baritone, and Bracha Eden and Alexander Tarr, piano. St John's, Smith Square, SW1 (071-222 1081), 7.30pm.

YOUNG BRAHMS: The series continues with a concert by the Nash Ensemble and Antony Pay. Brahms's Serenade No 1 and Weber's Clarinet Quintet and Strauss's 18 Eulenspiegel are featured. Parnell Room, South Bank Centre, SE1 (071-423 8800), 8pm.

CHINESE STATE CIRCUIS: First UK appearance by the best Chinese players. Clapham Common, SW1 (020-271 148), Tues-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, Sun, 2.30pm, 5pm and 7.30pm. Until Nov 19.

ROY HARGROVE QUINTE: Originally championed by Wynton Marsalis, the now mostly retired young trumpeter is joined by the same tight band that features on his joyful latest album, *The Way Jazz Cuts*, Putney NW1 (071-254 4365), 7pm.

SWAN LAKE: Northern Ballet Theatre opens a two-week London season with its production of *Swan Lake* (choreographed by Dennis Wayne and directed by Christopher Gaskin) of Tchaikovsky's classic, complete with a Krasovskaya girl for Siegfried's 21st birthday bash and seven corpses. Next

TODAY'S EVENTS

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Heather Alston

week they perform A Christmas Carol based on the Dickens story (see feature, page 31). Royal Theatre, off Kingsway, WC2 (071-454 5000), Tonight, 7.30pm, and Thurs, 2.30pm.

OUR SONGS: Peter O'Toole returns to the stage to star in Keith Waterhouse's stage version of his best-selling novel *Our Song* which reunites the team. O'Toole plays a married advertising executive who falls hopelessly and wildly in love with a much younger woman. Opening night. Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-484 5070), 7pm.

GREEN ON RED: The duo's evocative depiction of the underbelly of America continues on their smoky, pub-nurtured new album, *Too Much Fun*. Mean Fiddler, 24-25a High Street, NW11 0BT, 071-484 5400, tonight, 8pm. The Grand, St John's Hill, SW1 (071-738 8000), tomorrow, 7pm.

WET WET WET: The Scottish popsters are joined by a 40-piece orchestra for the charity gig. Albert Hall, Kensington Gore, SW7 (071-688 0212), 7pm.

REGIONAL: **CHICHESTER:** The Kath Waterhouse and White Hat Billy Liar, a study of

English adolescence is transferred to the stage in a new BP-sponsored National Theatre production. Paul Weller plays the boy with the vivid imagination. Alton Towers Theatre, Chichester, Park (0243 781132), tonight-Wed, 7.45pm.

PRESTON/LIVERPOOL: The Liverpool Philharmonic Orchestra under Lawrence Foster will be performing Brahms's Variations of a Theme by Haydn, Mozart (Piano), Concerto No 25 in C with Inogen Cooper; Ravel (Soprano, Mother Goose) and Strauss (Guitar and Violin). Guild Hall, Lancaster Road, Preston (0772 58855), tonight, 7.30pm. Philharmonic Hall, Hope Street, Liverpool (051-700 3768), tomorrow, Thurs, 7.30pm.

SWANSEA: Welsh National Opera's in Swansea this week, tonight and Thursday the company performs, *Rosetta's The Barber of Seville*, with the Australian Opera. Swansea Theatre, tomorrow and Saturday brings the company's new production of *Tosca* under the direction of Michael Blekman, with Martin Vennet Moore as Tosca and Peter Schramm as Scarpia. arfon Friday, Richard Strauss's *Elektra*, with murder in the title role, and with Felicity Pugh and Elinor Burschuh in the supporting cast. Grand Theatre, Singleton Street, (0792 47015), tonight-Sat, 7pm.

OXFORD: As part of the Music at Oxford autumn series the Verano Boys Choir presents a programme including works by Schubert, Duruflé, Brahms, Shostakovich, and others. Broad Street, (0855 781222), 8pm.

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
■ Some seats available
■ Seats at all prices

BEAN FRIEL: The affectionate comedy of an Irish emigrant and his ceasing after ego. A revival to be cherished. Wyndham's, Charing Cross Road, WC2 (071-867 1116), Mon-Fri, 8pm, Sat, 8.15pm, and Wed, 3pm, Sat, 8pm, 10pm.

PIGMAISON: Alan Howard, Frances Barber in a Howard Davies production. John Copley as a callous aristocrat in Wilde's social melodrama based on *Widow*. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-530 8800), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, and Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 10pm.

RADIO TIMES: Tony Stevely in a fun into down Memory Lane, set in wartime Broadcasting House, featuring with sprightly Noel Gay numbers. Queen's Theatre, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (071-484 5000), Mon-Fri, 7.30pm, Sat, 8pm, and Thurs, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 10pm.

ROMEO AND JULIET: Michael Maloney and Clara Adams in David Lawrence's fairly ordinary production. Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-488 8881), Today, 3pm and 7.15pm. 10pm.

THE RISE AND FALL OF LITTLE BOY: Alison Steadman and Jane Horrold in a new production of the play about a shy girl escaping her neurotic mother. Inhabited, Albion, WC2 (071-488 8881), Mon-Sat, 8pm, and Sat, 4pm, 10pm.

SHADES: Patricia Hodge takes over the role of brave widow hoping for a return to the theatre. Macdonald's, Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (071-488 8881), Mon-Sat, 8pm, and Thurs, 3pm, Sat, 4pm, 10pm.

STOCK EXCHANGE OF SEPARATION: Stock Exchange in the rich new world of the 1930s. A new play by John Guare's line play on human

inter-dependence. Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (071-867 1045), Mon-Sat, 8pm, and Wed, 3pm, Sat, 4pm.

THE STREET OF CROCODILES: Theatre de Complicité presents the nightmare world of Bruno Schulz. Amazing effects, bedeviling anyone. National, Chichester, South Bank, SE1 (071-423 2252), Today, 2.30pm and 7.30pm. 10pm.

THROU IN MIND: Vivian Vance in a new production of black American play. Why black stage banter and cleverly delivered message. Tivoli, 280 Kilburn High Street, NW6 (071-267 1007), Mon-Sat, 8pm, and Sat, 4pm, 10pm.

A WOMAN OF NO IMPORTANCE: Philip Prowse's triumph over a production. John Copley as a callous aristocrat in Wilde's social melodrama based on *Widow*. Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (071-530 8800), Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, and Wed, Sat, 2.30pm. 10pm.

LONG RUNNERS: In Blood. Brecht's *Phantom of the Opera* (071-488 8881), Mon-Sat, 8pm, and Thurs, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 10pm.

THE COMPLETE WORKS OF WILLIAM SHAKESPEARE (Abridged): As Theatre (071-488 8881), Mon-Sat, 8pm, and Thurs, 2.30pm, 4.30pm, 10pm.

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NEW YORK THEATRE: Holly Hill on the provocative latest offering from David Mamet

Offence, defence, harassment

Oleanna
Promenade Theatre

The title *Oleanna* may refer to an obscure folk song about Utopia, but the societal condition in David Mamet's new play is savagely clear. The drama which just opened at Off-Broadway's Promenade Theatre, a year after the Anita Hill-Clarence Thomas hearings, is an incendiary response to feminist positions on sexual harassment and empowerment.

By the end of the first act any David Lodge admirer could be longing for a touch of his satiric brilliance after the tortuous progress of an encounter between Carol (Rebecca Pidgeon) and John (William H. Macy) in the latter's sparse university office.

He is an education professor trying earnestly to help what seems to be a hopelessly slow student. Their discourse, occasionally punctuated with the kind of mystery-building pauses associated with Pinter, is interrupted by frequent phone calls concerning John's anticipated receipt of tenure and purchase of a house for his family.

The second act rockets off in a *coup de théâtre* when Carol is summoned by a baffled John to explain the sexual harassment charge she has made against him. She tells him he no longer is the one with the power (again reminiscent of Pinter, at his best).

As she methodically interprets most of what he said and did in Act I as sexist, elitist, and generally vile, Carol's frequent refrain in that act, as the previously bewildered student: "I don't understand", becomes John's.

In the final scene a now shattered John again meets with Carol. She then reveals the full agenda that she and "the group" she represents want to achieve.

Oleanna is an artistically powerful attack on irresponsible charges of sexual harassment, rather than an examination of the changing standards, confusions and miscommunications faced by men and women as they redefine their personal and professional



Sadistic mouse and victim? Rebecca Pidgeon as Carol, William H. Macy as John in David Mamet's *Oleanna*, "an incendiary response to feminist positions on sexual harassment and empowerment"

relationships. As written and directed by Mamet and immaculately played by Pidgeon and Macy, Carol is a sadist disguised as a mouse and John is her victim.

Occasionally foolish (he tells one sex joke and attempts to put his arms around Carol when she appears to cry)

and famous ("I ask myself if I had indulged in orthodoxy... I will not say heterodoxy"), he is a basically decent man who loves teaching and cares about students.

Even some audience members alarmed by Mamet's stacking his deck may applaud John's reaction to Carol

towards the end of the play, in the same spirit as those who cheered Anne Archer's shooting Glenn Close in *Fatal Attraction*. For the locked-horns vitriol of its second act, *Oleanna* is one of Mamet's most virtuous plays, for its sexual politics it is bound to be his most fiercely debated.

JAZZ: Clive Davis on a sincere and star-studded tribute to a jazz legend that was not all it might have been

Miles short of breath

Tribute to Miles Davis
Albert Hall

cians I mentioned are dead. So are many of the other great players who worked with Davis during that astonishingly creative period which lasted from the early Fifties to the early Sixties. The group at the Albert Hall represented the harsher, acoustic phase that came later, in which the celebrated melodies were either reduced to barely recognisable fragments or abandoned all together.

The one good thing that could be said about the self-styled "Tribute Band" is that it had the right personnel

for this particular job. Tony Williams, Herbie Hancock, Wayne Shorter and Dave Holland are all master technicians, quite at ease with chromaticism, sophisticated modal patterns and endlessly shifting pulses, while the trumpet player Wallace Roney (who also stood in for Davis on the recent *Re-Birth of the Cool* album) reproduces most of the mannerisms, from the mournful cracked notes to the famous hunched stance. He misses the poetry, but then so would anyone else.

Pity the poor, naïve listener who came along expecting to hear a selection of Greatest Hits. Apart from "So What" and "All Blues", two classics from *Kind of Blue*, the show consisted of an unrewarding trek through hostile territory. At one point, as the musicians conferred over what number to play next, a forlorn voice from the auditorium called for "Straight No Chaser". No such luck.

Alums such as *Kind of Blue* and *Sketches of Spain* have driven the distinction between abstraction and romanticism. Here the balance broke down at the very beginning. One of the most popular descriptions of Davis's music was that it was so carefully proportioned that it seemed to "breathe". What we saw on this occasion was a severe case of hyperventilation.

NEW RELEASES

BOOMERANG (15): Peering Madison Avenue Lustro gets his companions. Debralee Edde Murphy vehicle. Robert Givens, Hala Berry, director. Reginald Hurlin. MGM Babel Street (071-436 9772) MGM Fulham Road (071-370 2838) MGM Oxford Street (071-434 0010) MGM Tottenham (071-434 0031) Plaza (071-487 9939) UCI Whiteley (071-792 3333).

THE CHIVING GAME (15): PA GUYTON becomes obsessed with a hostage's girlfriend. Boku, powerful Neil Jordan film that falls at the close. Stephen Rea, Forest Whitaker, Jodie Davidson. Camden Plaza (071-485 2443) Curzon West End (071-485 2443) Curzon East End (071-485 2443) Curzon Tottenham (071-434 0031) UCI Whiteley (071-792 3333).

GLENN GARY GLEN ROSS (15): Real estate salesman fight for first ever. Energetic version of David Mamet's play, through Jack Lemmon goes over the top. Al Pacino, Ed Harris, director, James Foley. Odessa Haymarket (0426 913639).

MON PERE, CE HEROS (PG): Fimsy adventures of a divorced father (Gérard Philipe) and his teenage daughter on holiday in Mauritius. Mena Gellan; director, Gerard Lauzier. Curzon Piccadilly (071-485 2443) MGM Chelsea (071-436 9772) MGM Soho (071-436 9772) UCI Whiteley (071-792 3333).

UNLAWFUL ENTRY (18): Sicko cop creates havoc for Los Angeles couple.

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ♦) on release across the country

Exasperating thriller with wistful potential. Ray Lotta, Madeline Stowe, Kurt Russell, director, Jonathan Kaplan. Odessa Leicester Square (0426 915638).

BEAUTY AND THE BEAST (U): Disney's Disney cartoon baby, blessed with skilled animation and attractive songs that might have sprung from a Disney musical. Directors, Gary Trousdale, Kirk Wise. Camden Parkway (071-287 7034) MGM Chelsea (071-332 5358) MGM Oxford Street (071-434 0010) UCI Whiteley (071-792 3333).

CITY OF JOY (12): American doctor Patrick Swayze rediscovers his calling in London and his teenage daughter on holiday in Mauritius. Mena Gellan; director, Gerard Lauzier. Curzon Piccadilly (071-485 2443) MGM Chelsea (071-436 9772) MGM Soho (071-436 9772) UCI Whiteley (071-792 3333).

UNLAWFUL ENTRY (18): Sicko cop creates havoc for Los Angeles couple.

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AS A cornerstone of golden era Motown and one of the most naturally graceful songwriters of the past 30 years, 52-year-old Smokey Robinson has long been assured of his place in the pop music pantheon. There has been little room for his level of old-fashioned craftsmanship in the dance-groove-obsessed market of recent years, however, and it is now 11 years since his last significant chart placing, which was 1981's unexpected No 1, "Being With You".

Happily, Robinson's confidence in his own back catalogue, both as leader of The Miracles and solo, allowed him to return to the British stage for the first time in a decade without resort to compensatory tactics. There were no dance remixes, house beats or other attempts at contemporary window

Miracle man on form

Smokey Robinson
Hammersmith Odeon

dressing, just the sound of his glorious, feather-toned tenor cruising above the orchestra as he emerged from the wings singing "More Love".

Dressed like a celestial bellhop in sparkling white, he retains the eager-to-please air of an anxious teenager. His slight build and soaring voice, although surprisingly full-bodied whenever he chose to attack rather than coo a lyric, cast him as a celebrator of romance, rather than a practitioner of bedroom soul.

Not even the occasional roll of the hip or unbuckling of the shirt could

corrupt the picture of innocent yearning still achieved by the following trio of hits — "Tears of a Clown", "I Second That Motion" and "You've Really Got a Hold on Me", delivered with just the right balance of simplicity and gravitas, and in a timbre remarkably untarnished by the passage of time.

The fast early pace raised hopes of a non-Vegas production. Sadly, Robinson then threw away his momentum with lengthy band introductions, musings on his songwriting roots and selections from his recent, rather

faceless LP, *Double Good Everything*.

Not even the momentous "Tracks of My Tears" could quite recover the evening's former magic, but it could be argued that the singer had played his best card a mere third of the way into his 90-minute show. "Ooh Baby Baby", with each regretful, do-wopped note recreated with exquisite tenderness, was a reminder of exactly why Robinson retains his legendary status so far into his career.

Now that he has returned to live performances, two divergent options present themselves. He can coast on the vast nostalgia potential offered by his self-written hits (so many of them left unsung here), or address the challenge of making his new work approach the standards of the best that has gone before. Less talk, more music, would be an admirable first step.

ENTERTAINMENTS

CINEMAS

CURZON MAYFAIR: Curzon St. 071 485 9939. Exclusive preview in 70mm. *Boomerang* (15). *Beauty and the Beast* (U). *City of Joy* (12). *Unlawful Entry* (18). *Mon Pere, Ce Hero* (PG). *Glenn Gary Glen Ross* (15). *Boomerang* (15). *Beauty and the Beast* (U). *City of Joy* (12). *Unlawful Entry* (18). *Mon Pere, Ce Hero* (PG). *Glenn Gary Glen Ross* (15).

CURZON PHOENIX: Phoenix St. 071 485 9939. Exclusive preview in 70mm. *Boomerang* (15). *Beauty and the Beast* (U). *City of Joy* (12). *Unlawful Entry* (18). *Mon Pere, Ce Hero* (PG). *Glenn Gary Glen Ross* (15). *Boomerang* (15). *Beauty and the Beast* (U). *City of Joy* (12). *Unlawful Entry* (18). *Mon Pere, Ce Hero* (PG). *Glenn Gary Glen Ross* (15).

CURZON WEST END: Shaftesbury Ave. 071 485 9939. Exclusive preview in 70mm. *Boomerang* (15). *Beauty and the Beast* (U). *City of Joy* (12). *Unlawful Entry* (18). *Mon Pere, Ce Hero* (PG). *Glenn Gary Glen Ross* (15). *Boomerang* (15). *Beauty and the Beast* (U). *City of Joy* (12). *Unlawful Entry* (18). *Mon Pere, Ce Hero* (PG). *Glenn Gary Glen Ross* (15).

CURZON EAST END: Whitechapel Rd. 071 485 9939. Exclusive preview in 70mm. *Boomerang* (15). *Beauty and the Beast* (U). *City of Joy* (12). *Unlawful Entry* (18). *Mon Pere, Ce Hero* (PG). *Glenn Gary Glen Ross*

MUSEUMS: the British Museum has benefited from exceptional private generosity, reports John Russell Taylor

New light from out of the East

Once upon a time the Edward VII Gallery on the north side of the British Museum was the showpiece of the institution. Many will remember childhood visits when it offered the ideal quick conspectus, rushing visitors through select masterpieces from all ages and cultural backgrounds.

But in recent years it had fallen on relatively hard times. Housing oriental antiquities, it had become a tatty assemblage of intrusive showcases which broke up the space, surrounded by an excess of gloomy, dark woodwork and dingy cream paint. Also, surprising for a *piano nobile* gallery, it was itself very badly lit: Joseph Hotung, its current major benefactor, was not the only interested visitor who found it necessary to take his own flashlight.

Through the benefactions of Hotung, supplemented by those of the Asahi Shimbun bank in Japan, it has all now been restored to something like its original splendour. Given the changes of taste since the beginning of the century, it has been turned into something probably more light and airy than its original designers envisaged. All the same, one of the principal concerns has been to expose the architectural grandeur of the original gallery, the largest in Britain and quite probably one of the largest in the world.

Research was done on the original colouring of the walls, and beneath many and various decorative treatments were found remains of gold paper, with a strong blue line. The blue has been abandoned, but the gilt retained: now the main walls are covered with small squares of gold leaf, capturing the natural daylight and reflecting it backwards and forwards in a golden glow.

This splendid regeneration came about largely by chance. Hotung, a scholar and reclusive Hong Kong businessman and member of one of the four great Chinese families of Hong Kong, after some years trying to follow up his obsessive interest in oriental antiquities amid the gloom, suggested to one of the curators he knew that maybe he could at least pay for new lighting to be installed. She replied "Yes, of course. But why don't you pay for the renovation of the whole gallery while you're about it?" Though a trifle taken aback, Hotung thought that the idea was worth serious

consideration, and decided to do it to the tune of some £2 million. As may be gathered, Hotung is very rich and very interested in oriental art. He has himself one of the world's great collections of jade carvings (which will be seen at the museum in a loan exhibition next year). When I was speaking with him in Hong Kong recently he was delighted at his acquisition of a Vuillard painting, and there is clearly as much of West as East in his own makeup. But despite his interest in Impressionists and Post-Impressionists, his main collecting devotion is to the Far East.

When he was describing his



"I never made any rules; I just bought things if I liked them"

involvement with the new gallery, he remarked casually that it covered all except the western extremity of the gallery, which houses one of the British Museum's greatest treasures, not readily available to the public since the Fifties: the 100 carved stone slabs from the Great Stupa at Amaravati.

"Of course," he said, "that is really outside my range of interests." I could not help wondering where he set the limits. "Difficult to say. I don't think I do in advance," he continued. "My first purchase of Chinese porcelain was sheer impulse buying, and since then I have never made any rules about it, but just bought things if I liked them."

"I suppose it has turned out that I collect mostly from East and South-East Asia, going down to Thai and Khmer, and up towards India, but I could never say that Indian art was at the centre of my concern, let alone of whatever expertise I may have acquired. So when it emerged that Asahi Shimbun were ready to finance that part of the project I was happy to let them do so."

The bankers at Asahi Shimbun have already been involved in several fruitful collaborations with the British Museum — in setting up the Japanese galleries as well as individual exhibitions. Nor have their interest and willingness to participate ever been confined exclusively to Japanese or Asian art.

No doubt it helped to get them involved that the Amaravati sculptures are great works of Buddhist inspiration (Hotung, incidentally, is a Roman Catholic). But the pattern of the bank's sponsorship worldwide is highly diversified and unpredictable.

In the present case it has sponsored the new presentation of the sculptures, which are put together again more or less in the arrangement that obtained in the original stupa. There is a sort of screen in front, and behind that the range of individual sculptures which originally decorated the base of the central domed structure (and many of which depict the whole structure as it was).

All of this is separated by a transparent glass screen from the main body of the gallery, so that even though there is a formal division, the unity of the space is not disrupted. On the other side of the glass screen, but still in the western half of the gallery, the works on display shade gradually from intricate Hindu religious carvings — many of them much more formalised than the remarkably simple, informal figures of Amaravati — through a range of Buddhist and Jain sculptures and decorative arts, and geographically southwards towards Thailand and modern Indonesia.

A particularly pleasing feature of the displays is that they do not remain exclusively on the heights: a human context of often beautiful but definitely workaday art is regularly maintained. And whose taste is too rarefied to warm to, for example, the delightful carved wooden palace doors from Bali,



Bright prospects: a view of the British Museum's new Oriental gallery, which is named after its benefactor, Joseph Hotung (left)

recently rediscovered in the museum's stores, wrapped in brown paper.

To the east of the central well is to be found the cream of the museum's Chinese collection. For some inscrutable reason the British seem always to have responded more warmly to Chinese than to Indian art. While nearly all the museum's Indian sculpture comes from one early 19th-century collection made by one eccentric British administrator, the Chinese material comes from hundreds of different sources.

There is a superb collection, as one would expect, of blue-and-white china, valued here since the early 17th century. There are also extraordinary Ming wall-paintings, whole sets of ceramic figures which can only now, in the new open arrangement, be displayed together. There are some of the museum's most extraordinary treasures, the great early Chinese bronzes.

And all are displayed as never before, striking a happy medium between the New York Metropolitan's showbiz drama and the drearily instructive. It is difficult to see how this resplendent new addition to the museum's resources could be bettered.

● The Joseph E. Hotung Gallery of Oriental Antiquities at the British Museum, London WC1 071-636 1555, will be officially opened by the Queen next Monday.

TELEVISION REVIEW: Geoff Brown on the filleting of Shakespeare

Now, all the world's a screen

For viewers still reeling from the revelation in Michael Palin's *From Pole to Pole* that Novgorod was twinned with Watford, *Animating Shakespeare* (last night) must have been the final straw. For the last few years, animation expert Dave Edwards has been commuting from Cardiff to a dilapidated Moscow studio, helping to usher forth *Shakespeare: The Animated Tales*: six of the Bard's best squeezed into six 20-minute films, largely conceived by S4C (Channel 4, Wales), voiced in Cardiff by British stalwarts, and animated in Russia. They receive their first BBC airing next week; video release will follow.

This was no probing documentary. "Shakespeare would have loved it!" declared Birmingham University's Professor Stanley Wells, hauled on board the project's advisory panel to lend academic weight; while Dave Edwards, narrator Derek Jacobi and executive producer Christopher Grace all confidently declared that viewers would be entranced. No-one was around to dissent, though the Bard's adaptor Leon Garfield, poised with bow tie and pipe above

Animating Shakespeare
BBC 2

an electric typewriter, at least admitted to difficulties filleting *A Midsummer Night's Dream* to miniature size. Tragedies gave less trouble; if he had pangs of conscience about slicing off "To be or not to be" after the fifth line, he kept quiet.

For all its puffery, the programme at least served as a taster to this enterprising, if wayward venture, designed to appeal to the 10-15 age band. Three — *Macbeth*, *Romeo and Juliet*, *A Midsummer Night's Dream* — use the cel animation technique familiar in the West, where figures drawn onto celluloid sheets are placed on top of separately drawn backgrounds. But the clips hinted at what the complete films reveal: that the best artistic results come when the Russians delve into their own folk traditions. *Twelfth Night* and *The Tempest* rely on imaginative, highly skilled puppetry; the striking, if blandly voiced, *Hamlet* uses the insanely laborious method of paint-

ing each image on glass, achieving a haunting, richly textured effect impossible by other means.

Aside from the series' British progenitors, *Animating Shakespeare* introduced us to the six directors, all venturing outside the state-subsidised cocoon into a brave new world of deadlines and commercial imperatives. Nikolai Serebriakov, the *Macbeth* director, had his right hand bandaged; maybe he took the story too much to heart. Robert Saakiantz, the Armenian mastermind of the ugly *Midsummer Night's Dream*, talked of inspiration from above: on this occasion the gods let him down. *Hamlet* director Nausha Orlova revealed that, bowing to a superstition, none of the team cut their hair until the film was finished.

Then the programme marched on glibly to its dramatic climax: the August coup of 1991. The dedicated workers of Soyuzmultfilm heard the tumult but just carried on, adjusting Malvina's eyes with a pin, or putting the hideous finishing touches to Puck's button lips, blotchy cheeks and pink thighs. The next six weeks will reveal whether we should be grateful or not.

DANCE: How one British company is defying the recession and enjoying success

Make 'em laugh, make 'em cry



Pulling in the punters: Victoria Westall as a "Kissogram" dancing girl in Northern Ballet Theatre's *Swan Lake*

When Christopher Gable was a student at the Royal Ballet School in the Fifties, the commercial theatre was where dancers went if they did not make the grade. Gable, of course, did make the grade, and went on to become one of the most celebrated classical dancers of the Sixties. But he never accepted the smidgen of differentiation of his former teachers and enjoyed a successful commercial career as an actor, as well. Today, as director of Northern Ballet Theatre, he has finally married commercialism to the art form which has always disdained it.

Since taking charge of the company five years ago, Gable has overseen a rags-to-riches transformation. At one point several years ago, NBT was threatened with closure by the Arts Council; now it is reaping rewards at the box office with productions that are drawing in the punters. According to Gable: "The reason we're now flavour-of-the-month with the Arts Council is that in a recession, at a time when everybody else is drifting down, we're on a tremendous upward curve."

The former Covent Garden

Debra Craine finds art and entertainment coexisting at Northern Ballet Theatre

star is not ashamed to acknowledge his commercial acumen. "When I was training, if you looked like you couldn't make it you were taken to a room at the Royal Ballet School and somebody said in hushed tones, 'it begins to look as though you're going to have to think about the commercial theatre'. And it was death. It meant the end of the pie" and everything that was tacky.

"I sense a sneer in the word entertainment, as though it must be something around the Max Bygraves mark. Well, I don't accept a division between entertainment and art. If I want to say anything important artistically I must first capture my audience's attention. Commercial success is crucial to art."

Making ballet accessible and relevant to the public is Gable's driving vision for the Halifax-based Northern Ballet Theatre, which spends 30 weeks a year on tour. Having worked in the theatre with Trevor Nunn and Peter Brook, and in the cinema with

Ken Russell, he felt that classical ballet was out of touch with the other performing arts. "There is this strange idea that ballet still has to be done with rows and rows of girls wearing backless silk chiffon. This is why the dance world has got lost in a time-war somewhere around the Forties."

Gable's policy is to choose only full-length story ballets for the repertoire; at the expense of the one-act abstract works where new choreography is usually developed. He has also encouraged his collaborators to focus on a production's narrative aspects, and has worked with the dancers to hone their acting skills.

"Too much ballet was alienating the audience because they simply didn't know what the hell was going on. There wasn't really any attempt to help them understand and there was a rather sneering attitude to the public. If they were cultured enough and sensitive enough to understand, fine, but if not, sod off."

With *Swan Lake* and *A Christmas Carol*, and last season's *Romeo and Juliet*, Gable has scored undoubted commercial success. But what of his artistic achievements? Critical response has been mixed: some of it downright dismissive. *Swan Lake* and *A Christmas Carol*, which move to the West End tonight, have drawn the most fire, attacked for having insipid choreography and for overemphasising the need to entertain. *Swan Lake* comes complete with a "Kissogram" girl for Siegfried's 21st birthday party and a pile of rotting swan corpses. *A Christmas Carol* offers text and singing as well as dancing. In something closer to form to a musical than a conventional ballet.

Gable claims not to worry about the critics. "No matter how damning they are, they always finish with 'another crowd-pleaser for Northern Ballet'. It implies that the crowd is in some way an uncultured mob that is easily pleased by a second-rate attempt. It is extremely patronising of the public."

● *Swan Lake* opens tonight at the Royal Theatre, off Kingsway, London WC2G 071-494 5090.

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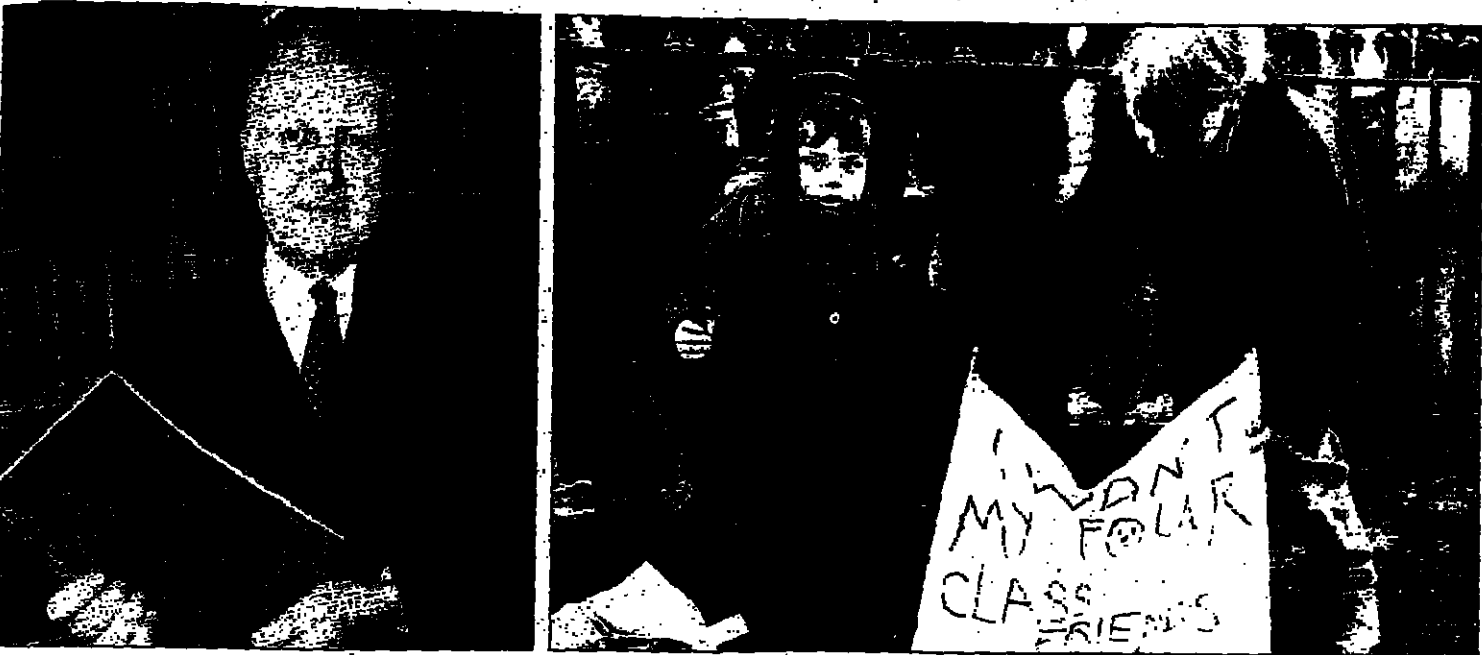
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مكتبة الامير

LAW

Act of hope for children



Cleveland revisited: Lord Clyde and his report. Right: a child outside Kirkwall Sheriff Court demonstrates for the return of his friends

Lord Clyde's Orkney report could be described as Cleveland revisited. The report has the same condemnation of the too hasty removal of children from their homes, the failure to treat children as individuals, the poor interviewing and the lack of inter-agency consultation and co-ordination. After the Butler-Sloss report and various committee deliberations, the public law provisions of the Children Act were passed in 1989 to influence child protection practice. It is relevant now to consider whether it is likely to help to prevent further scandals.

The main policies behind the statute are laudable:

- The placing of more emphasis on the child's welfare.
- The importance of having particular regard to the child's wishes.
- The aim that, wherever possible, children should be brought up and cared for in their own families and, where necessary, parents and social workers should work in partnership.
- The introduction of the new concept of parental responsibility, involving a balancing of parents' rights and duties, the powers of local authorities and other agencies, and the child's interests.
- The insistence that no order should be made unless it is better for the child.

The Orkney case has caused distress but Allan Levy QC believes there are signs that the new legislation may be working

Stricter grounds, showing that a child is suffering or is likely to suffer significant harm, must be proved before a court may make a care or supervision order. There is now an integrated and improved court structure, and all courts have the same remedies and powers. New emergency procedures replace the old discredited place of safety order and involve the parents at an earlier stage. Cases begin in the family proceedings courts and may be sent to the county court or the High Court, depending on length, seriousness and complexity.

For the first few months it appeared that few cases were being brought. That may well have been good news. It could be argued that social workers, having received their Children Act training, must have worked hard to ensure that children remained with their parents. Perhaps it showed that social services were receiving better legal advice and bringing only cases that had a reasonable chance of resulting in a court order. Unfortunately, an equally plausible view is that many

people were unfamiliar with the act and lacked the confidence to use its provisions.

One worrying statistic is that in the six months after the provisions came into force, 800 emergency protection orders were granted. For the comparable period before the act, 1,980 place of safety orders were made. This could mean many children were at risk and no proper action was taken.

In the past two months, however, a steady stream of cases is said to have been brought and things are probably getting back to normal. Not many decisions on legal points have emerged. Magistrates have to give reasons for their decisions and this seems to slow their deliberations. Legal practitioners report that even consent orders can take two or three hours and it is not rare for the court to emerge with an addition to the order previously not canvassed.

Important concepts still await authoritative interpretation. Significant harm, for example, needs to be

elucidated by the higher courts. A recent Court of Appeal decision, however, indicated that section 31, which sets out the grounds for making care or supervision orders, should not receive a strict legalistic analysis every time. It was said that, although the words of the statute must be considered, Parliament did not intend them to be unduly restrictive when evidence indicated a certain course to protect the child.

Sectional reactions to the act vary. Social workers can be found too far towards parents at the children's expense, lawyers who say serious cases that should go from the magistrates to the county court or High Court are not doing so, and guardians *ad litem* who say the courts are too reticent in making orders. The Official Solicitor's department, with wide experience in the field, reports that its public law caseload has dropped considerably.

Legislation, however, cannot teach people to investigate allegations properly and make assessments accurately. Judgment on the Children Act after its first year of life must be reserved but the outlook is hopeful.

● The author was counsel for the health department in the Cleveland enquiry and represented two of the families in the Rochdale case.

An impartial verdict is delivered on our judges

A COMPELLING case for improving the way judges are chosen, trained and work has been made out in a recent report by Justice, the all-party, independent law reform organisation. A committee chaired by Robert Stevens, containing considerable lay, professional, judicial and civil service expertise, has recommended the creation of a judicial commission to take responsibility for judicial appointments, judicial training, and the maintenance of high standards of judicial performance.

Much has changed for the better in the administration of the judiciary. Judges receive training organised by the Judicial Studies Board. They are no longer prohibited from speaking to journalists out of court. Last month, the Lord Chancellor's department required a judge to apologise after a woman usher complained that he had "kissed her on both cheeks and placed his hands on her waist".

John Mortimer's Rumpole considered it "one of the unsolved mysteries of the universe" that His Honour Judge Bullingham had been appointed to the Bench. "I can only suppose that his unceasing prejudice against all black persons, defence lawyers and probation officers comes from some deep psychological cause," Rumpole said. "Perhaps his mother, if such a person can be imagined, was once assaulted by a black probation officer who was on his way to give evidence for the defence." Such legal dinosaurs are rapidly becoming extinct. Radical political views are no longer considered an impediment to the dispensation of justice.

Yet these improvements, and the generally high quality of judicial performance, do not remove the need for reform of this aspect of government. Judges have always had considerable power over the lives of their fellow citizens.

The increasing scope of European Community law, and the continuing development of judicial review, mean there are few public policy decisions by government that are not subject to some measure of judicial control.

Yet judges continue to be appointed by a process that defies rational analysis. There are no job specifications. Vacancies are not advertised. References are not taken up. Reliance is placed on information on file obtained from a variety of sources, in particular senior judges, which the lawyer has no chance to answer or even to check for accuracy.

Decisions are announced, but not explained. Most appointments are confined to advocates, even though the qualities required for arguing a case are not necessarily those needed to decide that case wisely and fairly.

The committee proposes that a commission be appointed, with a substantial lay element, to assist the Lord Chancellor's department by applying an efficient and fair appointments procedure and by recommending shortlists of suitable candidates. All lawyers would be eligible, not merely advocates. The appointment of permanent part-time judges would make it easier for women to combine a judicial career with family care responsibilities.

The report is, with good cause, complimentary about the work of the Judicial Studies Board in training the judiciary. But it rightly calls for more resources and more of the time of judges to be devoted to this crucial topic, and for the appointment of a full-time director of judicial studies.

On judicial conduct, the committee appreciates the delicate balance that must be struck between the maintenance of judicial independence and the protection of the public. Judges are human beings and therefore, as Mr Justice Jackson of the United States Supreme Court observed in 1952, they "sometimes exhibit vanity, transience, narrowness, arrogance and other weaknesses to which human flesh is heir".

If a judge errs in law, an appeal to older, wiser (and more numerous) judges usually provides a remedy. If a judge acts injudiciously in court, there is much less that an aggrieved person can do. The committee correctly concludes that promoting public confidence in the legal system requires that an independent commission should be responsible for the maintenance of proper judicial standards.

Improvements in the quality of the English judiciary during the past decade make these reforms less important than they once were. But, paradoxically, the judiciary is now more willing than ever before to contemplate reform of its structure. This is for two reasons. Judicial dissatisfaction with the Lord Chancellor's department has never been greater. Moreover, the miscarriages of justice recently acknowledged by the courts have caused much soul-searching and have greatly reduced complacency about the structure of our legal system.

The judiciary is now sufficiently liberal and mature to understand that suggestions for reform are not a criticism of judicial performance but a reasoned argument that judges cannot remain immune from principles of good administration that apply to other areas of public life. The recommendations of the Justice committee will deservedly fall on very fertile ground.

● The author is a practising barrister and a Fellow of All Souls College, Oxford.



DAVID PANNICK QC

CITY law firms are being hit by the recession harder than ever. Last week Theodore Goddard made 14 solicitors, seven secretaries and eight support staff redundant. This was just one of a number of recent cuts and comes only a few weeks after Nabarro Nathanson laid off several lawyers.

Roger Bruce, Theodore Goddard's marketing director, says the firm had not budgeted for the continued economic slump. "We had plans and budgeted that the recession would end at the beginning of the year," he says. "If we did not take this action now, we would have to tell you a much worse story in six months' time."

Mr Bruce says his firm has ridden the recession "better than most" because it has handled several large restructuring jobs to keep companies afloat. Brent Walker has been one of these matters. Insolvency and litigation are also keeping specialists busy. As in most City firms, however,

City solicitors are hit again

Recession forces a leading firm to announce 29 redundancies

commercial property and mergers and acquisition work has been badly affected by the dip in economic activity.

"We are not alone," Mr Bruce says. "This recession is affecting the City's legal community across the board." There appears to be a general depression across the whole of private practice. The Law Society's 1992 statistical report shows that only 126 people were made partners this year. A commercial property lawyer from an unnamed City firm says: "There is blood on the streets. The situation is so bleak that I do

not expect to be in a job in six months."

The signs are that City firms are taking a less sympathetic view than they have in the past of students who have received only a partial pass, known as a referral, in their Law Society finals exams.

Lawyers with one, two and three years' post-qualification experience are also worried about the recent redundancies, fearing that a last-in-first-out system may be operated.

As the recession continues, City firms have adopted a number of tactics to attract new clients and keep existing

ones happy. Most recently Linklaters & Paines has broken with City tradition and introduced a completely computerised debt recovery service. The new installation, which cost £53,000 for software alone, will be used to recover commercial and property-related debts for existing clients and has been seen by some as an aggressive marketing tool to bring in more clients. Lintas, the computer company that provided the system, says it is in an advanced stage of negotiations to provide similar debt recovery systems to three more "top ten" firms.

Most big City firms are trying to cope by concentrating on a range of activities, including computers and communications, intellectual property, banking insolvency and litigation. The motto appears to be: "Don't put too many eggs in one basket."

SEAN WEBSTER
● The author is a writer with the Solicitors Journal.

Gatt trap for firms

THE breakdown of the Gatt talks may have far-reaching consequences for British law firms with international ambitions. In China, for example, the only reason why firms Lovell White Durrant and Denton Hall Burgin & Warrens (Scrivenor) were wrong last week to say Lovells was the only UK firm to win a licence to have now achieved "approved" status is that the authorities feared the American government would withdraw China's "most favoured nation" status unless they opened up the market. The lawyers, through the General Agreement on Trade in Services (Gats), were among the beneficiaries. If the Gatt talks now fail, so will Gats. Will China, Japan and Hong Kong, for example, then drop their more "open" policy to foreign lawyers?

Euro memo
THE new magazine *Memorandum*, aimed at Europe's law-makers, has had a muted launch with the aim of "backing into the limelight", says Trevor Skyles, its managing director. *Memorandum* is distributed to MPs and "senators" of the 22 countries in the Council of Europe, with the aim of becoming the house journal of Europe's legislators.

Lawyers, needless to say, have rushed in. Contributors

to the first issue include Jordi Solé Tura, Spain's culture minister and a former dean of Barcelona University's law faculty, and Professor Virginia Rognoni, Italy's former defence minister and a former court law professor at Pavia University. Jim O'Keefe, a solicitor and the Fine Gael foreign affairs spokesman, writes about Maastricht. Dr Jörg Haider, the chairman of Austria's Freedom party and another doctor of law, argues that Austria should abandon its neutrality.

Even the only humorous article is by a lawyer, Dr Charles Poncelet, a national deputy of the Swiss Liberal party. Perhaps Europe is a conspiracy of lawyers, not bureaucrats, after all.

Chambers stars
ONLY nine of the original 46 independent production companies submitting bids to produce an eight-week Channel 4 series on legal issues next spring are still in the running. Some of the competi-



ing television companies have gone to bizarre lengths to win the contract. Thames Television sent its bid to David Lloyd, the commissioning editor, in the form of a writ. However, the unorthodox bid was rejected. In another bid an editor suggested filming fashion models parading on a catwalk in wig and gown with a compère announcing the cost of the outfit.

Observers say it is difficult to see who is chasing whom

at the moment. Celebrated lawyers, including Mike Mansfield QC and Anthony Scrivenor QC, have been approached by several television companies. Others have complained loudly of being hounded by producers. However, the producers say it is the lawyers who have hounded them in an effort to jump on the bandwagon. At least one of the final nine has signed up a barrister's chambers to provide advice and inside gossip.

The signs are that the legal system will not come out of the series smelling of roses. One editor whose company is still in the running told Scrivenor: "We are going to expose the huge amounts City lawyers earn and discrimination and fraud within the profession. We will not be put off by threats of legal action and if they try to gag us like that they will get the shock of their lives."

Law givers

WATSON Farley & Williams, a City law firm, is making no charge for attendance at its seminar this afternoon on corporate and personal insolvency. The seminar, the first in a series of banking and finance legal briefs, includes among its speakers Ian Cheyne, the corporate banking general manager at Lloyds, and Laurence Shurman, the banking ombudsman. Given the present rate of bankruptcies, it may be standing room only.

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Niche City firm with diverse domestic and international client base seeks tax expert for head of department role. Clear business plan and strong existing client base. Following desirable but not essential. Candidates needs proven track record in cross-marketing and will be rewarded with a substantial partnership package.

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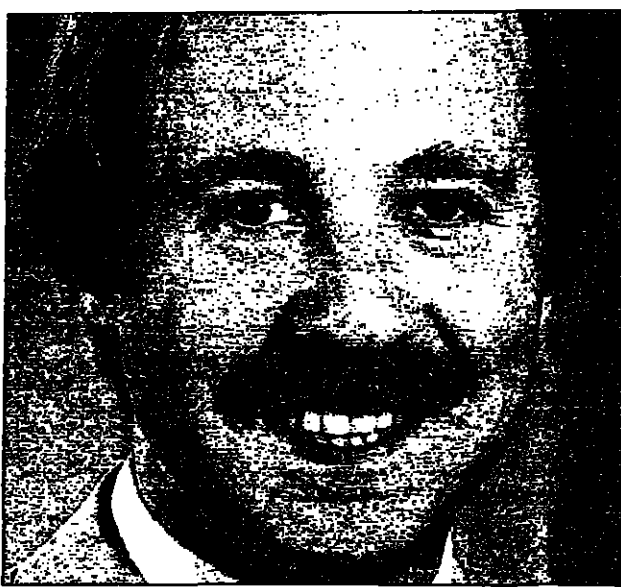
Closing date for applications is 20th November 1992. Interviews will be held during the week commencing 30th November in London and Redditch.

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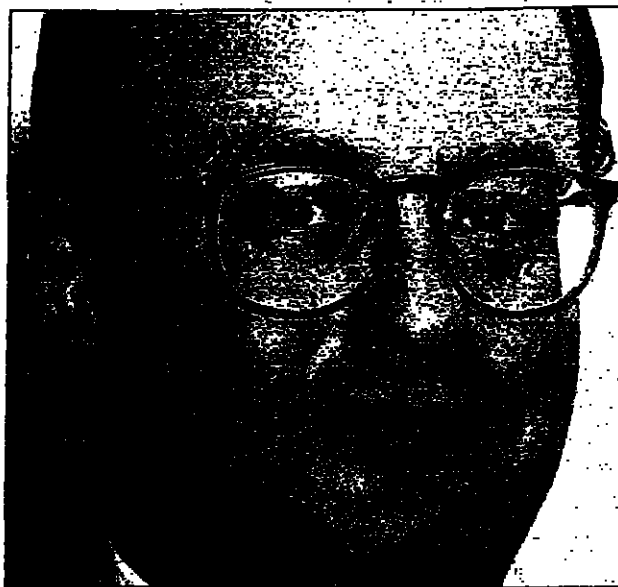
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Michael McNulty: surprised by the campaigning women



Mark Angleson: judicial decision for the next generation



Stephen Fiamma: votes not lost by hitting foreign companies

Social issues sway US voters

The composition of the supreme court will be shaped by the result of the American presidential election. Edward Fennell explains why

The presidential election has meant a busy time for American lawyers in London. For the past few months, Michael McNulty, a member of Democrats Abroad, who works as a lawyer in the London office of Whitman & Ransom, an American law firm, has been campaigning among the London legal and business community.

Mr McNulty has been surprised by the vigour with which women have been active in the campaign for Bill Clinton, which seems to bear out the importance of the issue of abortion and of the composition of the supreme court.

Appointments to the judiciary are scarcely election factors in the UK. But in the United States today the nominations for the next three vacancies on the supreme court, to be made during the coming four years, may be the most important single issue in determining how women vote. The election has caught fire over social issues, even more than over the prospects for jobs and industry. The supreme court's make-up will be critical in determining where the US goes on these questions.

The *Roe v Wade* judgment, which permitted abortion, is likely to be overturned if George Bush survives and appoints three new conservative justices. Mark Angleson, senior partner in Sidley &

Austin's London office, says: "The outcome of the election will shape the composition of the supreme court for the next generation."

Jerry Smith of Fried, Frank, Harris, Shriver & Jacobson confirmed that the Bush administration's neglect of women's issues may cause the president's downfall. Women, making up 55 per cent of the electorate and, in Mr Smith's view, increasingly unlikely to vote for traditional allegiances, may today swing the vote away from Mr Bush. Being primarily

corporate and commercial operations, American law firms in London are not directly affected by these matters. The election impinges on their colleagues at home, however.

For firms with offices throughout the US, such as Jones Day, Reavis & Pogue, litigation in the health field is still providing growing fees to help to smooth out Wall Street's problems. Employment law is also an expanding area of work. If Mr Clinton were to be active in these areas,

work for lawyers might greatly increase. Encouraging Americans to become even more litigious than they are already, however, is a two-edged sword. Mr Clinton is popular among American trial lawyers but has come under attack in some quarters for not supporting attempts to control the expense of litigation.

Meanwhile, professional indemnity costs for doctors spiral upwards, putting health care beyond growing numbers of the ordinary people that Mr Clinton claims to champion.

When it comes to bread-and-butter activity, American lawyers in London have no single opinion of Mr Clinton's likely impact on overseas investors. Some take seriously his threats to tax foreign companies more severely. "No votes are lost in attacking foreign companies," Stephen Fiamma, of Jones Day, says.

The Internal Revenue Service now has more resources for gathering taxes, and one view is that Mr Clinton will unleash them mercilessly against European and Japanese companies. Others, however, regard the Clinton

barrage on taxing foreigners as mere electioneering. "I cannot believe that he would be so stupid as to deter foreign investments," Mr Smith says. "Most new investment in America has come from abroad and nothing would be gained by turning that off."

Whatever the outcome, however, it is likely that American lawyers will switch their interest increasingly away from Europe and towards Asia. Dick Pogue, managing partner of Jones Day, pointed out while passing through London last week that the Taipei-Hong Kong-China triangle is the next dynamo area.

Start packing for the single legal market

The Continent is on the way to opening up to British services

A landmark decision last week has paved the way for a single market in legal services and the large-scale export of English lawyers to European Community member states, through the setting-up of branch offices. At a meeting in Lisbon, delegations of lawyers from EC states finally approved a draft EC directive by ten votes to two, aimed at allowing lawyers of one member state to set up offices in another.

The decision comes after 17 years of wrangling between delegations, which has been fuelled in recent years by French insistence on restrictions that would have proved huge obstacles to firms wanting to open up in France. As a spin-off from the reforms in France (which from January 1992 saw a new, fused legal profession instead of the old two-branch one), law firms wanting to open shop to give advice on English law in France could not do so without qualifying as full members of the French Bar. Many law firms already had branch offices, but the rule would have been a formidable obstacle to newcomers.

The French finally decided

to support the draft directive, along with the Greeks, giving it the necessary majority.

John Toulmin QC, for many years the Bar representative on the UK delegation to the Council of Bars and Law Societies of Europe (CCEB), hailed the decision as of huge significance for the freedom of lawyers to work where they wanted. "It is not only in France that there will be an impact," he says. "The decision is equally important for the creation of cross-border practices, where firms have offices one or other side of the borders of community countries, and it means that lawyers in Freiburg wanting to open an office in Strasbourg or in Perpignan wanting to open an office in Barcelona can do so."

The decision was also "excellent news" for the Bar, whose members have already established chambers in Brussels and Paris.

The timing of the decision makes it a particularly sweet victory for Mr Toulmin. He has just been elected president of the CCEB, to take effect from January, after many years pushing the cause of the directive he helped to draft. In 1983, he became the Bar's member of the UK delegation and headed it from 1987, becoming second vice president for last year and first vice president for this.

There are several items on his agenda: in particular, he will turn his attention to partnerships that are multinational or multi-disciplinary (between different professions).

There is general approval of the first, but the tide, he says, is turning against the second. Meanwhile, he is optimistic that it will not be long before the draft directive on rights of establishment becomes law. In any event, member states are likely to proceed in its spirit.

FRANCES GIBB

ONE thing should not go unnoticed about the pit closures: the threat to the miners of losing redundancy pay if they strike.

The legal position seems to be that miners may lose all redundancy pay above the statutory minimum if they go on strike. Even if they have a right to such pay under their employment contracts, they can lose it by such action, since a strike is normally deemed a breach of contract by the employer. This means of preventing strikes can be more effective than either fines on unions or police on picket lines.

Strike could cost the miners dearly

This threat by British Coal would not be possible in those of Britain's EC partners, such as France, which have recognised a right to strike. That right has endured, for governments on the right and left, because it is seen as a way of counterbalancing the imbalance of power in industry, an imbalance our present crisis throws into relief.

Although many people in Britain are angry, that anger is likely to fade when new

public preoccupations take over. That will surely happen long before the consultation period ends. This will leave miners and the employer staring at one another.

In the case of the ten pits now condemned, whatever comes of consultation, those miners cannot count on the same outside support that has been generated until now by the huge cuts first announced.

Yet the problem for the British public remains the

same: such closures may ultimately cost us more than it would cost to keep the mines open. There are few tools in an employee's arsenal against a management that was in such a hurry that it got what it wanted it was prepared to break the law requiring prior consultation on redundancies. One is the expensive and uncertain method of court action, another is to strike.

True, strikers can abuse their power. The essence of a

strike is that it is a form of pressure on the employer to change a policy or decision. But Britain has the means to open such pressure when it becomes excessive, including laws that require respect for public order and others that prevent strikes without ballots. That is very different from what we have in this situation. British Coal, with government approval, is by the threat of withholding redundancy pay, trying to noble from the outset any

bona fide law-abiding attempt to strike.

Consider a parallel with free speech. Imagine you joined in a picket of government offices protesting against the level of the state pension. The next week you open your pension envelope to find your payments cancelled because you were seen on the picket line. You would say your right to free speech had been violated. You would be right.

SHELDON LEADER

© The author is Professor of Law at the University of Essex.

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Power to order disclosure

Re British & Commonwealth Holdings plc (No 2)
Before Lord Keith of Kinkel, Lord Ackner, Lord Jauncey of Tullicoultry, Lord Lowry and Lord Slynn of Hadley

[Speeches October 29]

The court's power, under section 236 of the Insolvency Act 1986, to order discovery of information, on the application of the administrator of a company, was not limited to documents which could be said to be needed to reconstruct the state of knowledge that the company should possess, but the court had to be satisfied that the administrator reasonably required to see the documents to carry out his functions and that, in the light of his requirements, their production did not impose an unnecessary and unreasonable burden on the person required to produce them.

The House of Lords held in dismissing an appeal by chartered accountants, Spicer & Oppenheim (S & O), auditors of Atlantic Computers plc from 1983 to June 1989, from a decision of the Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Ralph Gibson and Lord Justice Woolf, Lord Justice Nourse dissenting) (The Times December 31, 1991; [1992] 2 WLR 931) to allow an appeal by the joint administrators of British & Commonwealth Holdings plc (BCH) from the judgment of Mr Justice Hoffmann on July 24, 1991, whereby he set aside an order of the registrar requiring S & O to produce to the administrators all records relating to BCH's acquisition of Atlantic and the auditing of Atlantic for the years ending 1987 and 1988.

Section 236 of the 1986 Act provides:

"(2) The court may, on the application of the officer-holder, summon to appear before it ... (a) any person whom the court thinks capable of giving information

concerning the promotion, formation, business, dealings, affairs or property of the company.

(3) The court may require any person to produce any books, papers or other records in his possession or under his control relating to the company or the matters mentioned in paragraph (2) ...

Mr Peter Goldsmith, QC and Mr Robin Knowles for the administrators; Mr Gabriel Moss, QC and Mr John Bristow for the administrators.

LORD SLYNN said that in 1988 BCH had acquired Atlantic for approximately £420 million and had provided the company with further sums amounting to £117 million.

In April 1988 administrators of Atlantic were appointed and a statement of its affairs showed a deficiency of some £279 million. BCH were also in difficulties and administrators were appointed in June 1990.

Those administrators took the view that serious questions had to be investigated concerning the conduct of Atlantic's business before and after the acquisition and as to representations made to BCH prior to the acquisition.

To that end the order for the production of the records was obtained from the registrar pursuant to section 236 of the Insolvency Act 1986.

Mr Justice Hoffmann considered that in *Cloverley Ltd (Joint Administrators) v Bank of Credit & Commerce International SA* ([1991] Ch 90, 102) Sir Nicholas Browne-Wilkinson, Vice-Chancellor, had restricted the availability of an order under section 236 to enable a liquidator or administrator to get sufficient information to reconstruct the state of knowledge that the company should possess.

He concluded that little, if any,

of the information sought by the administrators could be so described and he discharged the registrar's order.

Although passages of *Cloverley* at pp102 and 104 supported the judge's conclusion as to the effect of the judgment, read overall, it did not appear that it was intended to lay down such a limitation.

In any event, his Lordship did not think that such a limitation existed.

The wording of section 236 contained no express limitation to documents which could be said to be part of a process of reconstructing the company's state of knowledge. The words were quite general.

Nor was there any support in earlier judgments relating to the predecessors of section 236 or to comparable sections.

His Lordship was, therefore, of the opinion that the power of the court to make an order under section 236 was not limited to documents which could be said to be needed "to reconstruct the state of the company's knowledge" even if that might be one of the purposes most clearly justifying the making of an order.

At the same time it was plain that it was an extraordinary power and that the discretion had to be exercised after a careful balancing of the factors involved on the one hand the reasonable requirements of the administrator to carry out his task, on the other the need to avoid making an order which was wholly unreasonable, unnecessary or oppressive to the person concerned.

The protection for the person called upon to produce documents lay, not in a limitation by category of documents but in the fact that the applicant had to satisfy the court that, after balancing all the relevant factors, there was a proper case for such an order to be made.

The proper case was one where

the administrator reasonably required to see the documents to carry out his functions and the production did not impose an unnecessary and unreasonable burden on the person required to produce them in the light of the administrator's requirements.

An application was not necessary because it was not necessary to make a lot of work or might make him vulnerable to future claims, or was addressed to a person who was not an officer or employee of or a contractor with the company in administration, but all those would be relevant factors.

Mr Justice Hoffmann, leaving aside the limitation which he felt he had to observe, had balanced the various factors, reaching the conclusion on that basis that the registrar's order should stand.

The same result had been reached on appeal by Lord Justice Ralph Gibson with whose conclusion Lord Justice Woolf, despite initial reservations as to the width of the order, agreed.

These were no grounds to justify saying that the judge and majority in the Court of Appeal had erred in law in a way which vitiated the exercise of discretion involved.

It might well be an exceptional case. The size of the financial crash, however, gave rise to an exceptional case.

The administrators needed in the very complex situation to check the accuracy of the various financial documents. It was difficult to see how the order could be cut down and remain effective.

Accordingly, despite the width of the order and recognising that it was an exceptional case, the appeal should be dismissed.

Lord Keith, Lord Ackner, Lord Jauncey and Lord Lowry agreed.

Solicitors: Linklaters & Paines; Stephenson Harwood.

Retraction of extradition evidence

Regina v Governor of Pentonville Prison, Ex parte Alves
Before Lord Templeman, Lord Roskill, Lord Bridge of Harwich, Lord Goff of Chieveley and Lord Jauncey of Tullicoultry

[Speeches October 29]

The retraction by a witness in extradition proceedings of evidence previously given by him in the requesting state did not in itself discharge that evidence and it was in deciding whether there was sufficient evidence to justify an order for committal.

The House of Lords held in giving reasons for having allowed, on July 20, an appeal by the Director of Public Prosecutions, on behalf of the Government of Sweden, against the order of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice Stuart-Smith and Mr Justice Popplewell) on March 20 granting an application by David Thomas Alves for a writ of *habeas corpus* following upon his committal to custody by the Metropolitan Magistrate at Bow Street Prison, London, at the request of the Swedish Government.

Mr Clive Nicholas, QC and Miss Clare Montgomery for the DPP; Mr Alan Newman, QC and Mr Donald Brough for the applicant.

LORD GOFF said that Stephen John Price had pleaded guilty in Sweden to aggravated drug offences relating to the distribution of cannabis in the United Kingdom from abroad. While serving his sentence of imprisonment, Price, who had previously made a statement to the police, appeared before the Gough City Court, where he admitted the offences and was sentenced to imprisonment for 18 months.

The Swedish Government commenced proceedings for the extradition of the applicant from this country on charges relating to the importation and distribution of cannabis in Sweden. The Secretary of State issued his order to proceed.

At the committal proceedings, Price, having returned to this country on his release from prison,

repudiated his evidence before the Swedish court. In so far as it implicated the applicant on the ground that it had been obtained by pressure exerted upon him by the Swedish police.

The Extradition Act 1989 provided for two procedures for extradition between the United Kingdom and foreign states.

The new procedure was set out in Part III of the Act. Where, however, as in the present case, there was an order in council under section 2 of the Extradition Act 1870 in force in relation to a foreign state, Schedule 1 to the 1989 Act, derived from the 1870 Act and certain associated amendments, applied, subject to the terms of the order in council which embodied the relevant treaty.

Paragraph 7(1) of Schedule 1 provided that "... if the foreign court ... is duly authenticated, and such evidence is produced as ... would, according to the law of England and Wales, justify the committal for trial of the prisoner if the crime of which he is accused had been committed in England or Wales, the metropolitan magistrate shall commit him to prison, but otherwise shall order him to be discharged."

The applicable law, if a person was accused of committing a crime in this country, was to be found in the evidence before the Magistrates' Courts Act 1980.

"(1) ... if a magistrate's court ... is of opinion ... that there is sufficient evidence to put the accused on trial by jury for any indictable offence, the court shall commit him for trial; and, if it is not of that opinion, it shall ... discharge him."

In the present case, the foreign warrant had been duly authenticated. It was not disputed that Price's evidence before the Gough City Court was sufficient to justify the decision to commit.

However, Price had retracted that evidence and moreover was, on the case for the Swedish Government, an accomplice of the applicant.

Even so, the magistrate had decided to commit and the question arose whether he was, in those

circumstances, entitled to do so.

Before the House, Mr Nicholas submitted that Mr Price's evidence before the magistrate, his Swedish evidence being sufficient to justify the applicant's committal, was essentially a matter for the decision of the magistrate, who had heard Price give evidence before him.

Indeed, if Mr Newman was right, retraction in this country of evidence previously given in the requesting state would *ipso facto* discharge the evidence so given and so deprive the magistrate of any power to commit on that basis.

That could not be right. If the magistrate concluded, on the evidence before him, that the previous evidence was such that a jury properly directed could not properly convict upon it, then, on the principle stated in *Galbraith*, he should not commit.

But otherwise, if the prosecution evidence was such that its strength or weakness depended on the view to be taken of its reliability, the magistrate was entitled to act upon that evidence in deciding whether there was sufficient evidence to justify an order for committal.

That was evidently the conclusion reached by the magistrate in the present case. It was a conclusion which he was entitled to reach on the evidence before him.

The same approach had to apply to the fact that Price was, on the Swedish Government's case, an accomplice of the applicant. Such a fact could not *ipso facto* render Price's evidence worthless, even where, as here, the evidence of the accomplice was uncorroborated.

There was no doubt a matter which the magistrate should take into account when considering whether a witness's evidence was to be rejected as worthless; and his Lordship had no doubt that, in the present case, the magistrate had taken it into account, together with the fact that Price had retracted his earlier evidence implicating the applicant, when deciding whether to make an order for committal.

Lord Templeman, Lord Roskill, Lord Bridge and Lord Jauncey agreed.

Solicitors: CPS, Headquarters; M. Julius Medford & Co, Stockwell.

Distinction between knowing law and doing wrong

Regina v Lightfoot

There was a clear distinction between a defendant's knowledge of the law and his appreciation that he was doing something which, by the ordinary standards of reasonable and honest people, was regarded as dishonest.

The fact that a man did not know what was criminal and what was not or that he did not understand the relevant principles of the civil law could not save him from conviction if what he did, coupled with his state of mind, satisfied the elements of the crime of which he was accused.

Jurors were not likely to have a clear understanding of that important distinction. Accordingly, in a case where the defence put forward was that no dishonesty had been involved, and the jury sent a note after retiring asking

whether ignorance of the law was a defence, it was not sufficient for the judge to answer, without inviting counsel to address him, "No, it is not."

The Court of Appeal (Lord Justice Staughton, Mr Justice Waterhouse and Mr Justice McCullough) so stated on October 5, when allowing the appeal of Richard James Lightfoot against his conviction on May 9, 1991 at Croydon Crown Court (Judge McElduff and a jury) of attempting to obtain property by deception.

MR McCULLOUGH said that justice required that the judge should have explained the distinction to the jury and should have gone on to repeat the earlier direction he had given correctly in accordance with *R v Ghosh* ([1982] 2 QB 1053, 1064D-G).

Costs lie where they fall in discontinuance

Regina v Liverpool City Council, Ex parte Newsam and Others
Before Mr Justice Simon Brown

[Judgment July 13]

Where an application for judicial review was discontinued because the respondents had rendered the proceedings academic, costs should be where they fell unless the respondent had acted to pre-empt the applicants' likely success.

MR JUSTICE SIMON BROWN observed in the Queen's Bench Division allowing discontinuance of an application by Vic Newman and six other members of the National and Local Government Officers' Association for judicial review of decisions by Liverpool City Council to make a redundancy payment as part of a cost-cutting exercise.

Mr Philip Engelmann for the applicants; Mr Stephen Savain for the respondent.

MR JUSTICE SIMON BROWN said the situation was an exception to the general rule that discontinuance in judicial review proceedings would be at the applicants' cost where the applicants had recognised their challenge was likely to fail.

If the respondent had made the application academic in order to avoid defeat, it might even be just that he should pay the applicants' costs.

But where, as here, there was no short way the court could determine the likely outcome of the challenge, it was appropriate to allow discontinuance without penalty to the applicants.

Solicitors: Bruce Piper & Co; Mr William Murray, Liverpool.

Landlord's term was too imprecise

Gray v Brown

Before Lord Justice Butler-Sloss and Lord Justice Simon Brown

[Judgment October 21]

Terms by a landlord, who did not live on the premises, that a tenant was to occupy a room, and to share the house with "whichever I choose" were not sufficiently specific to show that he was reserving the right to live there himself and did not, therefore, operate to deprive the tenant of protection under section 22 of the Rent Act 1977.

The Court of Appeal so held in allowing an appeal by John Brown from a decision of Judge Stockdale at Barnet County Court on October 14, 1991 whereby he granted an order for possession of 40 Maidstone Road, New Southgate, London to the plaintiff, John Gray and his family, claiming that the tenancy of John Brown was protected.

Section 21 of the Rent Act 1977 provides: "Where under any contract ... (a) a tenant has the exclusive occupation of any accommodation, and (b) the terms on which he holds the accommodation include the use of other accommodation in common with his landlord and other persons ... the contract is a restricted contract."

Section 22 provides: "Where a tenant has the exclusive occupation of any accommodation, and ... (a) the terms as between the tenant and his landlord ... include the use of other accommodation ... in common with another person or other persons, not being or including the landlord, and ... the separate premises occupied by the tenant are deemed to be a dwelling house let on a protected tenancy."

MR SIMON A. BIRKS for the

tenant; Mr David Matthias for the plaintiff landlord.

LORD JUSTICE BUTLER-SLOSS said that in March 1978 there was an oral agreement for the tenant to rent a single room on the premises and to share the bathroom, lavatory and kitchen. The landlord reserved the right to choose other occupiers who would share the communal rooms.

The question for the court was whether the tenancy fell within the provisions of section 21 or section 22 of the Rent Act 1977.

Section 21 appeared to have been passed to protect the interests of a landlord who was or might be sharing accommodation with a tenant. On the other hand tenants sharing accommodation which did not include the landlord were protected under section 22.

It would therefore be of im-

portance for a tenant to be aware of the terms of the agreement and whether or not he was protected.

The terms of the oral agreement, as set out in Mr Gray's affidavit, did not disclose any reference to the possibility of him residing in the property and they were not sufficiently specific to make it clear that Mr Gray was reserving to himself the right to be one of the possible occupiers of the premises.

To come within section 21 the terms must include clear words reserving the right of the landlord to live on the premises. In her Ladyship's judgment the agreement brought the tenant within the ambit of section 22 and not section 21.

Lord Justice Simon Brown agreed.

Solicitors: Cairnes, Enfield; Atwater & Liff, Loughboro.

Duty of family justices to read documents

Hampshire County Council v S
Before Mr Justice Cazalet

[Judgment October 13]

Justices hearing an application for an interim care order had a mandatory duty to comply with the provisions of rule 21(1) of the Family Proceedings Courts (Children Act 1989) Rules (SI 1991 No 1395 (L17)). That rule required justices to read any documents filed before the commencement of the hearing.

MR JUSTICE CAZALET so stated in the Family Division on allowing an appeal by parents from the making of an interim care order by justices in Hampshire who had decided the matter on the oral submissions of the parties' representatives.

MR JUSTICE CAZALET proposed the following guidelines for justices on hearing applications for interim care orders:

1 Justices had to bear in mind that an interim care order was a holding order until the substantive

hearing, nevertheless the justices had to consider all the relevant risks pending that hearing and ensure that the substance issue be heard at the earliest possible date.

2 Justices should be prepared to grant the proceedings laterally to an adjacent family proceedings court if they found that sufficient time was not available.

3 In such proceedings justices should rarely make findings on disputed facts which should be left to the final hearing.

4 Justices should be cautious about changing a child's residence on an interim order. The preferred course should be to leave the child in the residence with a direction for the justices to consider the matter with an early hearing date.

5 If the interim order would lead to a substantial change in the child's position, then justices should permit limited oral evidence to be led and challenged by way of cross-examination but in that cross-examination the evidence would have to be rational in the issues to be resolved at the interim stage. The justices would have to

intervene to ensure that there was not a dress rehearsal of the full hearing.

6 Justices should ensure that they had the written advice of the guardian of the child. A party opposed to a recommendation made by the guardian of the child should be given an opportunity to put questions to the guardian *ad litem*.

7 Justices had to comply with the mandatory requirements of the rules, especially with rule 21. Justices had to read any documents filed under rule 17 before the hearing. The clerk to the justices had to make an appropriate written record of the hearing and, in consultation with the justices when making an order or giving a decision to state the findings of fact and the reasons for the decision.

8 On granting interim relief, justices should state their findings and reasons concisely and summarise briefly the essential factual issues between the parties although they would not be able to make findings on disputed facts as the court would not have heard full evidence.

Regina v Harrow London Borough Council, Ex parte Carter
Before Mr Roger Henderson, QC

[Judgment September 28]

A strict policy of referring all cases where a homeless person was shown to have a legitimate local connection elsewhere was not permitted under section 67 of the Housing Act 1985.

The Court of Appeal, sitting as a deputy judge of the High Court, so held in a reserved judgment in the Queen's Bench Division allowing Mrs Tracy Carter to challenge by way of judicial review a decision by the Harrow London Borough Council to refuse her a local connection housing application to Camden.

By section 67(2) of the 1985 Act the conditions for referral of an application to another local housing authority were "(a) that neither the applicant nor any person who might reasonably be expected to reside with her has a local connection with the district of the authority to whom his application was made."

By section 61(1) of the Act a person has a local connection with a district if he has a local connection with a district by a school in a family association, or (d) because of

Housing policy unlawful

special circumstances."

Mr Anthony Jernam for the applicant; Mr Robin Tolson for the council.

HIS LORDSHIP said that before 1990 Mr and Mrs Carter and their four young children lived in Camden. They sold their house in Camden, and moved to Harrow. Mrs Carter's sister in Harrow, Mrs Carter, later their marriage broke down and Mrs Carter was left with the children occupying one room of her sister's house.

The council accepted that Mrs Carter was unintentionally homeless and had a priority need but concluded that she had a local connection with Camden.

Section 67 of the 1985 Act required the council to ask themselves not only whether there were special circumstances relating to Mrs Carter's children's education but also whether it should refer her and her family to Camden in all the circumstances of the case, including the problems experienced in Camden where the children had been failing to learn to read.

The policy of the council did not recognise that in all cases there had to be room for exceptions and that there had to be consideration of the circumstances of the housing authority to which a reference might be made.

Thus it was appropriate to grant Mrs Carter's application. When the council reviewed her case it was to be hoped they would pay high regard to the need to recognise that the importance of the *Manual* was such that it should never be the subject of an order for production.

Police manual is protected

Goodwin and Another v Chief Constable of Lancashire
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Farquharson and Lord Justice Evans

[Judgment October 22]

The *Public Order Manual* of a police force was a privileged document protected from disclosure on the ground that it belonged to a class of documents attracting public interest immunity.

The Court of Appeal so held in a reserved judgment allowing an interlocutory appeal by the Chief Constable of Lancashire from the order of Judge Holt in the County Court in January 1992 that the *Manual* should be produced to the plaintiffs, Colin Goodwin and Philip Gill, two police officers, at the hearing of their action for damages for personal injuries alleged to have been caused by the negligence of the defendant.

MR GRAHAM H. WELLS for the defendant; Mr Allan Gore for the plaintiffs.

LORD JUSTICE FARQUHARSON said that the defendant's case was that the importance of the *Manual* was such that it should never be the subject of an order for production.

It contained details of police techniques and tactics in different fields and it would be injurious to the public interest that such details should become public knowledge.

That claim should be upheld. Police forces had to develop a strategy for dealing with disorder, political demonstrations and riots and had to introduce appropriate training for their officers.

If the organisers of demonstrations which sought to exploit the weapon of public disorder became aware of the police methods of dealing with such situations the opportunity to frustrate the efforts of the police to impose control was clear and obvious.

Where a valid claim for public interest immunity was, as here, established it was still open to a party seeking disclosure to contend that without production of the document he could not properly present his case. But the plaintiffs had failed to demonstrate any countervailing interest calling for disclosure.

Lord Justice Evans gave a concurring judgment and Lord Justice Nourse agreed.

Solicitors: Weightman Rutherford, Liverpool; Russell Jones & Walker, Manchester.

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European Law Report

Requirement to consult in legislative procedure

European Parliament v Council of the European Communities
Case C-65/90

Before O. Duij, President and Judges R. Jozef, E. A. Schöckweiler, F. Giesecke, J. G. Kavanagh, G. F. Mancini, C. N. Kavanagh, J. C. Morillon de Almeida, G. C. Rodriguez Iglesias, M. Díez de Velasco and M. Zuleaga

Advocate General M. Darnatzis

[Opinion February 20]

The requirement to consult the European Parliament during the course of the Community legislative procedure implied a fresh consultation whenever the text finally adopted differed in substance from the text upon which the Parliament had already been consulted unless the amendments essentially corresponded to the wishes already expressed by the Parliament.

The Court of Justice of the European Communities so held when annulling Council Regulation No 4059/89 of December 21, 1989 laying down conditions under which non-resident carriers could operate national road haulage services within a member state (OJ L390, p3).

The year in which Faldo asserted his supremacy

Dallas turn back the clock

Greco, of Houston, missed a 39-yard field goal on the last play. The Steelers have won both games between the clubs.

The New York Giants used excellent defence to beat the Washington Redskins 14-11. Washington have gone 11 quarters without scoring a touchdown on offence. Chris Chandler passed for 197 yards and three touchdowns and Johnny Johnson had 100 yards rushing as the Phoenix Cardinals upset the San Francisco 49ers 24-14.

Ken O'Brien connected on three first-half touchdowns, passes and weathered five sacks to lift the New York Jets to a 26-14 win over the Miami Dolphins, who lost for the second week in a row.

FOOTBALL

7.30 unless stated,
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First division
Bristol Rovers v Barnsley (8.0)
Cambridge Utd v Luton (7.45)
Grimsby v West Ham (7.45)
Leeds v Ipswich (7.45)
Oxford Utd v Portsmouth (7.45)
Sunderland v Wolverhampton (7.45)
Swindon v Brentford (7.45)
Tottenham v Coventry
Walford v Peterborough (7.45)

Second division
Blackpool v Huddersfield
Bournemouth v Brighton (7.45)
Burnley v Reading
Exeter v Bolton
Fulham v Stoke
Mansfield v Hull
Port Vale v Leyton Orient (7.45)

SRA WOMEN'S SUPERLEAGUE
SQUADS: Transac: Courtlands: C Jackson, S Wright, F Geaves, R Macrae, R Strauss Lee-on-Solent: D Dracy, L Scuter, L Cherman, C Medd, S Spacey, Reebok Nottingham: L O'Pee, S Homer, L Irving, R O'Callaghan, C Nitch, Talking Pages Windsor: S Dewey (now retired), M Le Moignan, S FitzGerard, J Martin, R Poole.

WISPA TOP TEN: S Dewey (NZ), M Martin (Aus), M Le Moignan (Eng), C Jackson (Eng), R Lambourne (Aus), S Wright (Eng), L O'Pee (Eng), H Wallace (Can), L Irving (Aus), S Homer (Eng).

dort; Troys v Braer; Colchester v Hampstead and Westminster; Farnham v Neston; Westbury United Bank v Farnham; Harborne v Stourport; Slough v Old Kingsland; Swinwell v Sunbury; Gloucester v Ben Rhylidog; Reading v Lyons; Taddington v Beiper; Worcester Norton v Redknave and Mord; Southport v Havent; Richmond v Harleston Magpies; Bourne-mouth and West Haris v Northampton Saints; Spencer v Alderley Edge; Maldenhead v Luton Town; Southgate v East Grinstead; Dulwich v West Wilks; City of Portsmouth v Beeston; Brooklands v Gore Court; Timperley v Cannock; Bromley v Warrington.

Walsley and Easton v Grays. First division:
Leyton v Maccleshead. Uxbridge v Watlington
and Hiersham. Second division: Worthing v
Chertsey.

BEAZER HOMES LEAGUE: Premier division:
Hastings v Walsborough. Southern
division: Sudbury v Westcliff. Wexham v
Havant.

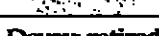
BARCLAYS COMMERCIAL SERVICES
CUP: First round, second leg: Crawley v
Fisher Athletic.

HFS LOANS LEAGUE: Premier division:
Burton v Mossley. First division: Altrincham
v Guiseley. Congleton v Workop. Harrogate
v Eastley and Tynes.

Ranson, who signed from Swinton last year, suffered a scratched eyeball and required stitches under an eyelid. He does not intend to press the claim further.

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Defence against Bruno a possibility

Lewis angles to challenge for title in Britain

BY SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX Lewis is prepared to take a cut in his purse to secure home advantage when he challenges for the world heavyweight boxing championship next April. Lewis, who will receive around \$8 million (about £5.2 million) if he goes to the United States for the bout, was so lifted by the support of the 12,000 crowd at Ears Court on Sunday in his eliminator against Donovan "Razor" Ruddock that he is going to do his utmost to bring Evander Holyfield to Britain to defend his title.

Lewis's promoters believe that Holyfield, the undisputed world champion, who must first overcome Riddick Bowe in Las Vegas on November 13, could be persuaded to make the trip for \$28 million. The whole promotion would cost around \$40 million.

Lewis said yesterday: "I like to fight in England. England is the place for me. My mission is not over. I want to bring the title back. I doubt if Holyfield will take a chance by coming here. He'd be taking a big risk by coming here."

Frank Maloney, Lewis's manager, said: "The crowd lifted him in the fight. When Ruddock came in he was intimidated. I looked at Ruddock. He died. Lennox's chest got even bigger."

Before the bout, Dan Duva and Shelley Finkel, the managers of Holyfield, had said they would be prepared to come to London to defend the title. But after seeing Lewis destroy Ruddock in two rounds, Duva changed his mind on Sunday. He said that, as champion, Holyfield

should be given the right of selection of venue and it was most likely that Lewis would have to go to the United States to challenge the champion.

Maloney has estimated that if Lewis had to go abroad, about 9,000 British supporters would make the trip to the United States. A travel company has already started receiving requests for tickets. Lewis's popularity changed overnight after his victory. But Maloney believes the right money could make the Americans change their minds.

"The dream is not to fight for the world title, the dream is to win the world title. The dream is getting closer. You never know, television could come up with a lot of money," Maloney said. "We are talking with people to put it together, and have some accountants looking into the possibility of bringing the fight here."

Lewis said that if he took the title in April, American chal-

lengers would have to come to Britain. "The Americans have had the title for so long, everyone has to go to America. I'm going to make them come to England."

He did not rule out a defence against Frank Bruno. "If Bruno is a fight Britain wants to see and Frank does not mind taking the risk, we could work out something," Lewis said.

British gamblers give Lewis more chance than Bruno of winning the World Boxing Association, World Boxing Council and International Boxing Federation titles during 1993. William Hill, the bookmakers, report a "rush of bets" at odds of 8-11 for Lewis to become undisputed champion next year, but say they have received none for Bruno to do likewise.

Talking about Saturday's bout, Lewis said he had watched it many times on videotape and decided that the punch that floored Ruddock in the first round was not the best he had ever thrown. He thought for a moment and said the punch that knocked out Mike Weaver was the best.

"I've thrown better right hands," he said. "In the Weaver fight it was a better right because I had to step in." The right that sent Ruddock spinning was a reaction punch. "I had been practising it for eight weeks, so I did it naturally. I was looking at myself and saw how composed I was and how what I had learnt in training came out. Most important was my movement."

Lewis will have a first-hand view of the contest between Holyfield and Bowe as co-commentator on the live transmission by BSkyB and, on the way to Las Vegas, will call in on the World Boxing Council convention in Cancun, Mexico.

David Pierre, of Peterborough, has replaced Alan Hall in Saturday's European light-welterweight championship bout against Valery Kayumba, of France, the holder, in Luxembourg. Hall injured his back in training last week.



Lewis: likes England



Exhausted: Croft after her first match for five years at Telford yesterday

Croft stages triumphant return

BY ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

IN HER first competitive tennis match for more than five years, Annabel Croft, the former British No. 1, beat Alison Smith 6-4, 6-7, 6-3 to reach the second round of the Volvo Women's National Championships in Telford yesterday.

The lead role in Cinderella at the Theatre Royal in Norwich awaits Croft later this month, but anyone following her progress yesterday might have been forgiven for thinking the season for fairy tales — not to mention pantomimes — had begun a few weeks earlier than usual.

Even if most of Croft's game was understandably rusty, at least the instinct for survival

had remained sharp after five years jumping from helicopter and playing pantomime princesses. "She played the big points better than I did," Smith said. "She knew what to do when." The timing of a budding actress, presumably.

Croft was delighted with her performance, but was adamant that the whiff of competition and victory would not go to her head. Whatever happens, this will be her first and last professional tournament of the year. "I'm absolutely exhausted and I was certainly feeling it at the end of the second set, but I began to enjoy it a little more in the third set," Croft said.

Smith, 22, was badly affected by nerves early on. Her best chance was to gain the initiative and exploit Croft's own lack of confidence and match practice. Instead she gave Croft a free ride, losing the first four games amid a cluster of errors. She pulled back to 4-3, then lost the first set, but levelled the match in the tie-break 7-2 as Croft began to tire.

Yet, true to her claim that she is fitter now than at any time in her life, Croft proved the stronger of the two and broke early in the final set. For Croft, it was a case of never mind the quality, feel the width. "I felt sorry for the

spectators. It must have been pretty horrendous to watch, but she didn't give me any rhythm. The first two sets were pretty horrific."

While commenting on the rise in standards in the women's game worldwide in her absence, Croft has been surprised by the lack of progress on the home front since she retired in April 1986. "If anyone had told me six years ago that Jo Durie would still be No. 1 today, I would have been surprised. No disrespect to Jo, of course. I think she would be surprised herself," she said.

Results, page 38

Ireland coach calls it a day

BY DAVID HANDS
RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

CIARAN Fitzgerald, Ireland's most successful rugby union captain of recent years but markedly less so as national coach, resigned yesterday in the wake of the 42-17 defeat inflicted by Australia last Saturday.

Fitzgerald, 40, made his decision with just under a year of the generally accepted three-year tenure to go. "I have decided to step down to allow someone with a fresh approach to take charge of the squad, in the hope that Irish rugby may achieve the success it seeks and needs," he said.

Given Ireland's record since he accepted, in June 1990, what was always going to be a difficult brief, Fitzgerald's announcement comes as no great surprise. But it is appropriate that a man who contributed so much as a player, and was subsequently prepared to shoulder the coaching burden and the criticism which has come with it, should choose his time to go with dignity.

Under his captaincy Ireland won nine and lost nine matches, drawing one and including two triple crowns and a shared championship. As a coach, however, Fitzgerald managed only three wins and a draw from 18 matches. His regime included record defeats against England, France, New Zealand and Australia.

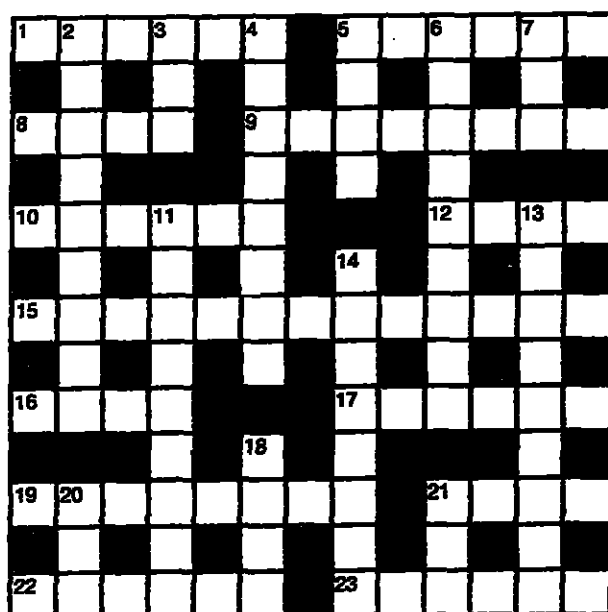
"Although I have been very disappointed with the results during my time in charge I believe we have the nucleus of a good squad but it will take time to develop and reach its full potential," he said.

The timing of Fitzgerald's departure is designed to give a successor as much time as possible to prepare for this season's five nations' championship and, ultimately, the 1995 World Cup. Noel Murphy, the team manager and a former coach himself, will take over until the Irish Rugby Football Union's coaching committee makes its recommendations.

The leading contenders may be Pat Whelan, another former hooker who coached Munster and, last season, Ireland B, and Harry Williams, who coached Ulster and will coach Ireland's team in the A fixture with Scotland on December 28.

Unhappy S Africa, page 38

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2935



- ACROSS
- 1 Tall snooker rest (6)
 - 2 Trunk curl exercises (3,3)
 - 3 Sacred (4)
 - 4 Brown curl (8)
 - 5 Cannabin cigarette (6)
 - 6 Scope (4)
 - 7 Abundancy (13)
 - 8 Open solo (4)
 - 9 Intercine (4,2)
 - 10 Snow blizzard (5,3)
 - 11 Wall buttress (4)
 - 12 Sturdy (6)
 - 13 Summary (6)
- DOWN
- 1 Bladed thruster (9)
 - 2 Textual (3)
 - 3 Rehabilitated (8)
 - 4 Seigneur's Channel Island (4)
 - 5 Forbearance (9)
 - 6 Large chest muscle (3)
 - 7 Amazing (9)
 - 8 Brash assertiveness (9)
 - 9 Throbbled (6)
 - 10 Snug (4)
 - 11 Very warm (3)
 - 12 Greedy type (3)

SOLUTION TO NO 2934

ACROSS: 1 Feeding frenzy 8 Alone 9 Exposed 10 Rat 11 Maize 12 Tallyho 14 Non-use 16 Suburb 20 Archway 23 Crawl 24 Nor 25 Inertia 26 Okapi 27 Notoriously

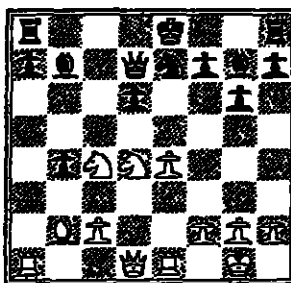
DOWN: 1 Fragmentation 2 Erosion 3 Ingress 4 Ghemo 5 Repel 6 Nasty 7 Yellowbellies 13 Lib 15 Ugh 17 Uncross 18 Unaware 19 Dynamo 21 Clift 22 Water

WINNING MOVE

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is a variation from the game Fischer — Spassky, Sveti Stefan (Game 11) 1992. Black is a pawn up and if he could castle kingside he would have good chances to consolidate it. However, it is White's move, and he has a powerful blow. Can you see it?

Solution below.



Solution: The surprising 1. Qxb6! is very powerful. If 1... Qxb6 2. Nxb6+ and 3. Nxb6+ threatening the rook as well as 2 Nxb6+.

CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts, (runs on most PCs, telephone Akom Ltd on 081 852 4575 (24 hours) or call CDS Doncaster on 0302 890 000. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

Sutherland faces grilling over late arrival in Rio

FROM BARRY PICKTHALL IN RIO DE JANEIRO

AS THE hours passed here last night, with no sign on the horizon of Commercial Union, the last of the ten-strong British Steel Challenge fleet to complete the first stage of this race around the world for amateur sailors, the immediate future of Will Sutherland, her skipper, was the subject of much speculation.

So far, the representatives of the insurance company which has sponsored the yacht to the tune of £225,000, have been living up to their advertising slogan and have not made a drama out of a crisis, but patience may be wearing thin. They have been unable to disguise their concern for their 13 crew members, who are due to start the second stage of this race around Cape Horn bound for Hobart, Tasmania, on November 15, six days behind the ninth-placed yacht, Cooper's Lybrand, skippered by Vivien Cherry, and nine days behind the leaders.

Certainly, Sutherland faces some tough questioning by Chay Blyth, the race chairman, as to why his 67-foot yacht — which is identical to the others in this fleet — could fall so far behind.

Blaming his crew is unlikely to cut much ice. The crew members, who have each paid £15,000 for the privilege of taking part, were chosen by Blyth to match the skills and experience of those racing on the other yachts. Most have completed as many as 3,000 miles during the two years of intense training and preparation for

what is expected to be a 28,000-mile voyage lasting eight months.

Even before the start from Southampton in September, differences had begun to surface between Sutherland, 47, a former management training executive from Scaynes Hill, Sussex, and his crew. Some complained to Blyth that they were unhappy with Sutherland's uncompromising and confrontational style of leadership.

But problems resurfaced before the starting gun had fired. Sutherland misunderstood the five-minute delay signal for the start and was given a four-hour penalty for a false start.



Sutherland: in the dock

The yacht has been running last almost ever since after running slap into the Azores high, not to mention the widest area of doldrums on this leg, and almost every other calm spot.

Yesterday afternoon, the hapless crew found itself living up to another of their sponsor's advertising slogan, coined specially for this race: "We are right behind you all the way" and were becalmed once more within 35 miles of Rio. They were not expected to finish before daybreak today.

RESULTS: First leg (Southampton to Rio de Janeiro). Sponsors: 1. British Steel (P. Tudor), 29 days 23h 38min; 2. Intrepid (P. J. J. J.), 28-12-27; 3. Health Insurance (A. D. D.), 28-12-28; 4. Pride of Tessa (J. MacGillivray), 31-08-01; 5. Group 4 Securities (J. G. G.), 31-08-02; 6. Hobart Leger (P. G. G.), 31-08-03; 7. Nuclear Electric (J. C. C.), 31-08-04; 8. Redne Poulenc (J. O. O.), 31-08-05; 9. Coopers & Lybrand (J. C. C.), 31-08-06; 10. To Britain (J. C. C.), 31-08-07; 11. 1400hrs GMT yesterday with miles to Rio de Janeiro; 12. Commercial Union (W. Sutherland), 35 miles.

□ Results compiled by BT.

□ As the debate on the future of Olympic sailing gets down to specifics at the International Yacht Racing Union in London this week, two decisions were made yesterday (Malcolm McKee writes).

The often controversial rule 54, which bans athletic body movement and so-called kinetic sailing, stays in the book, and the maximum number of yachting competitors at the 1996 Olympics, specified by the International Olympic Committee (IOC), is to be 443, the same as at the Barcelona Games. An IOC cut had been widely expected.

Saunders to face legal action

BY CHRIS MOORE

DEAN Saunders, Aston Villa's man of the moment, is facing court action for his tackle on Paul Elliott, in his final game for Liverpool on September 5, that might prevent the Chelsea defender playing again this season.

Elliott needed an operation for damaged cruciate ligaments as a result of the challenge and may require further surgery. He decided to take civil action against Saunders and Liverpool after watching a videotape of the incident.

Peter Robinson, Liverpool's chief executive, confirmed yesterday that Elliott's solicitors had begun legal proceedings.

"The issue has been considered by our board of directors and appropriate action has been taken," Robinson said.

Ron Atkinson, the Villa manager, who paid Liverpool a club record £2.3 million for the Welsh international striker, said: "I don't think anyone could describe Dean Saunders as a vicious player."

The Professional Footballers' Association has not been requested to become involved. "We would have to take a neutral stance because both parties are members," Brendan Batson, deputy chief executive of the PFA, said.

There have been other similar cases in recent years. Danny Thomas, the former Tottenham Hotspur defender, settled his action against Kevin McGuire out of court, while John O'Neill's hearing against John Fashanu is still pending three years after the incident.

Leeds wait on Batty, page 38

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FOOTBALL 24, 25

Batty doubtful
for European
tie against Rangers



RUGBY UNION 28

Australian
captain ruled
out with injury



BUSINESS 35-40

Sam Whitbread
hopes for a happier
hour at the pub

EDUCATION
ON
MONDAY
Page 33

THE TIMES 2

MONDAY NOVEMBER 2 1992

Ruddock knocked out in second round as British boxer sends out emphatic message to Holyfield and Bowe

Lewis lays down title credentials laced with power

By SRIKUMAR SEN, BOXING CORRESPONDENT

LENNOX Lewis proved that he could bring the world heavyweight boxing championship to Britain for the first time in this century in the early hours of yesterday morning at Earls Court, London. Against the advice of all the experts, he took on the most feared heavyweight, Donovan "Razor" Ruddock, of Canada, and wiped him out in 46 seconds of the second round of their final world title eliminator.

His next contest will be for the world title in April against Evander Holyfield, the champion, and Riddick Bowe in Las Vegas on November 13. Lewis's challenge will almost certainly take place in the United States if the opponent is Holyfield. The champion's managers, Dan and Lou Duva, could not believe that the man that their boxer and Bowe had so studiously avoided had been disposed of so easily.

"I knocked down Holyfield's door," Lewis said. The Lewis punch had been seen by millions in the United States, many of whom had also watched Ruddock stand up to Mike Tyson for 19 rounds last year. Lewis, who has had trouble selling himself in the United States because of a notion, not without some foundation, that most British heavyweights are of the horizontal variety, is now an overnight sensation. Lou Duva said: "Lennox has restored credibility to the heavyweight ranks."

If Lewis, 27, were to catch Holyfield with the right hand that floored Ruddock in the first round, the world champion, too, would be wondering, like Ruddock, what day of the week it was, Saturday night or

Sunday morning. George Foreman, who was working ringside for HBO, the American cable television channel, was hugely impressed. "Lewis can beat the champion of the world like that," Foreman said, snapping his fingers. "You don't get too many punches like that in England. He can have a long reign if he keeps his shoes on the right feet and keeps away from the wrong crowd."

It was a great moment for British boxing and a moment of personal triumph for Lewis when Joe Cortez, the referee, waved his arms over the

'Here is a man with hands as fast as a middleweight throwing punches with the power of Samson'

David Miller, page 23

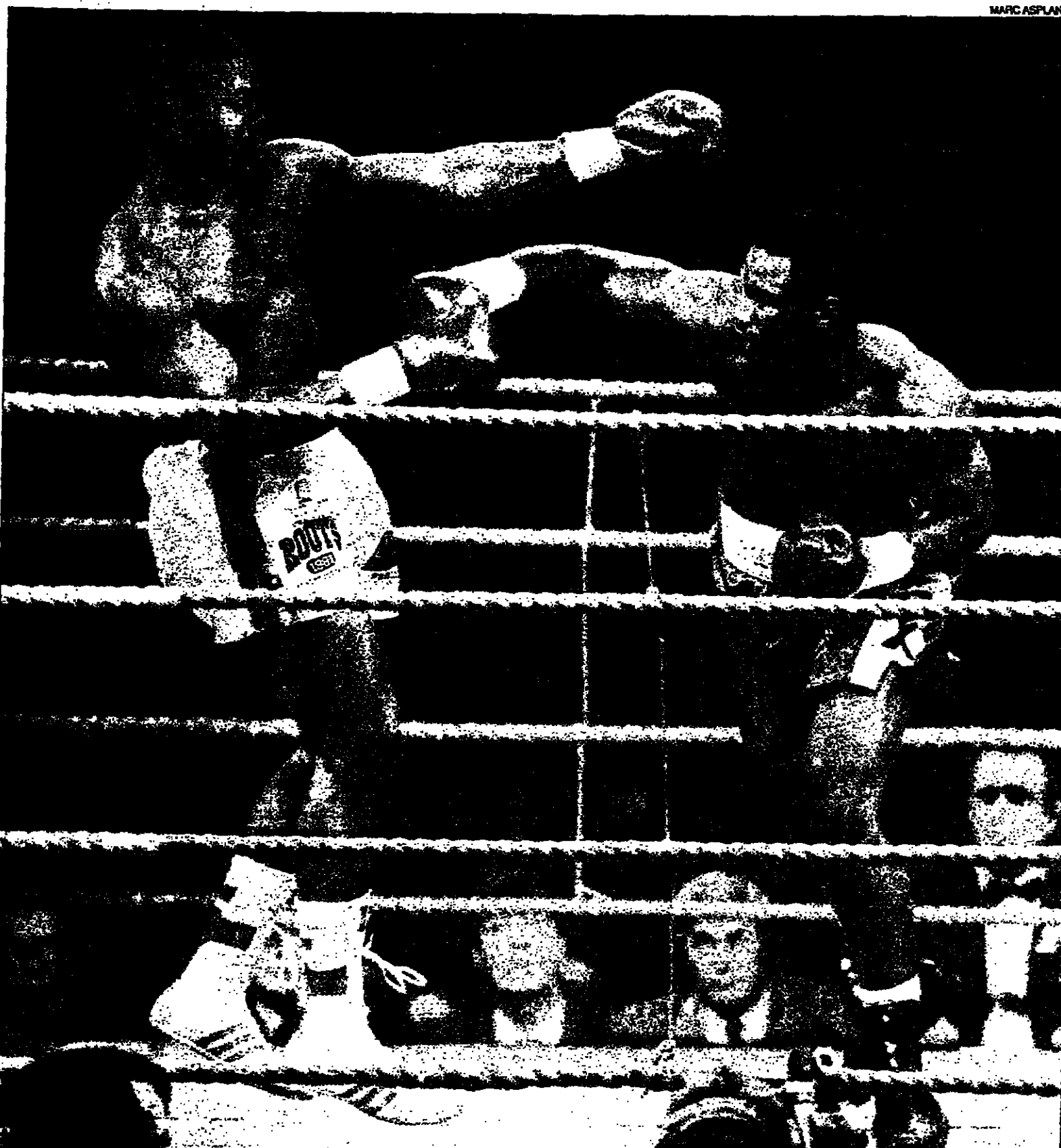
helpless body of Ruddock and counted him out. The crowd of more than 12,000 were on their feet as Lewis put the big Canadian down for the third and last time with a right hand. The crowd had been behind him as one man from the first bell to ten-and-out. At last Lewis, who was born in Forest Green, London, but grew up in Canada, was one of their own.

Lewis believes he has silenced his critics. "Most of the questions about Lennox Lewis have been answered," he said. "I was on stage for the world. I was adopted by a lot of people. I would like to fight Holyfield because I want to be the first man to beat him." Of the three most important questions,

only one was answered, that Lewis can punch. The two that remain are: Can he take a punch? Has he got the stamina to stay 12 rounds with Holyfield?

Lewis boxed beautifully. By keeping his left arm extended and by constantly moving about the ring, he prevented Ruddock from setting himself for the big left that had accounted for 20 of his 31 opponents and had Mike Tyson in trouble. The punch that floored Ruddock, in the first round, was well timed. As Ruddock tried to get inside, Lewis turned a chopping right on to the jaw that Tyson had broken 16 months ago. The sharp report on impact signified that the blow had gone home. Ruddock's legs gave way and the centre of gravity of the 16st 7lb Canadian changed dramatically and, with a strange accusing look in his eyes, he fell face-first. As Cortez bent over him, Ruddock moved slowly, like a man climbing a cliff face.

Ruddock rose on the count of eight and, just as Lewis was wondering whether it was safe to go in and give him another one, the bell intervened. Ruddock staggered off to his corner, had a wash and brush-up but still looked apprehensive the next round. Lewis hit him with a big left hook and he went down with Lewis still unloading blows on his head. Ruddock took a count of eight and, with one great effort, he threw his big left uppercut and missed. Lewis said afterwards that he heard the wind whistling past his ears. He then launched into his final combination. Ruddock went over, his right arm twisted under him. He was not going to get up this time.



Going up, and coming down: Ruddock is sent reeling as Lewis sets him up for the big left at Earls Court yesterday

Touring rugby teams arrive on British soil

TWO of the world's leading rugby union nations arrived in Britain yesterday. Australia, the World Cup holders, flew into Cardiff fresh from a record 42-17 defeat of Ireland and preparing for seven games in Wales, while South Africa, via a more sedulous route, reached London after losing the last three games of their tour to France.

Michael Lynagh, Australia's captain and stand-off half, will, however, not play again on tour after dislocating his left shoulder. The injury will take six weeks to mend and Phil Kearns, the hooker, will take over the leadership. Medical advice over the weekend suggested the quickest way to repair the damage would be for Lynagh to return home for an operation and last night the Australian management was waiting for the results of an x-ray in Swansea on Lynagh's shoulder.

The South Africans arrived at Lensbury for their first visit to England since the demonstration-haunted tour of 1969-70 and can expect a warm reception when they play the Midlands, the English divisional champions, at Leicester on Wednesday. 48 hours of turmoil, page 22



Master Lyle

Sandy Lyle, left, won the Volvo Masters golf tournament yesterday by beating Colin Montgomerie at the first extra hole in Sotogrande, Spain. He appeared to have lost his chance when he shanked his third shot at the 17th, but the ball ricocheted off a tree back onto the course. Montgomerie hit the trees at the first extra hole and could manage only a five to Lyle's winning four.

Banned lifters cleared

Andrew Saxton and Andrew Davies, the two British weightlifters who were sent home from the Olympic Games in Barcelona but cleared of drugs offences on Saturday, are considering legal action because of the damage caused to their reputations.

Professor Arnold Beckett, a member of the International Olympic Committee medical commission for 25 years who has constantly proclaimed the lifters' innocence, yesterday pledged that he would try to raise the money from industry, if the men could not raise the finance necessary to meet their lawyers' costs. Saxton and Davies will meet a solicitor in Oxford this week to consider compensation but the question remains: from whom?

The Sports Council, the British Amateur Weightlifters' Association or the British Olympic Association? Page 22

Saunders keeps Villa rising

Aston Villa 2
Queens Park Rangers ... 0

By STUART JONES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

BEFORE the beginning of the season, Ron Atkinson professed that his Aston Villa side was "a million miles away" from being genuine contenders for the Premier League title. Earlier last week, when asked to reassess their potential, he estimated that they were merely "half-a-million miles away".

At their rate of progress, they should be the favourites, at least in the opinion of their manager, in another three months. The man who promises to lead them to the hypothetical status is Dean Saunders, who has already propelled them to third place. Villa, though developing into an attractive and dependable unit, became serious candidates for the championship only when Saunders was persuaded to join them from Liverpool in early September. At the extravagant price of £2.3 million he was the ruthless executioner they required

to finish off their opponents. As Manchester United had been the victims of the Welshman in the midweek Coca-Cola Cup tie, so Queens Park Rangers succumbed to another thrust of his rapier yesterday. With his eighth goal in ten games, Saunders enhanced his own reputation and that of his new club by putting them ahead in the 42nd minute.

Rangers, moulded by the immaculate 36-year-old Wilkins, were in the process of reinforcing their own claims as the nearest, if not the most effective, team in the division. Even Ron Atkinson admitted that "they were the better side in the first half". Except, that is, whenever they dropped their guard against Saunders. They did so twice. On the first occasion, he struck the inside of an upright after a quarter-of-an-hour. On the second, he anticipated Dalian Atkinson's intentions from Spink's punt, ran on to the headed flick and tucked the ball between the trailing McDonald and the advancing Roberts.

Rangers, forced to be more adventurous, were penetrated

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Blackburn	14	7	4	3	24	18	26
Sheff Wed	14	6	4	4	20	15	22
A Villa	14	6	3	5	15	12	21
QPR	14	5	5	4	15	13	20
Sheff Sat	14	5	4	5	18	15	20
Coventry	14	5	3	6	16	15	19
Man Utd	14	4	6	4	17	14	18
Sheff Utd	14	4	5	5	14	16	17
Leeds	14	4	4	6	14	18	16
Derby	14	4	3	7	13	16	15
Sheff Utd	14	4	3	7	12	17	14
Nottingham	14	3	6	5	11	14	13
Sheff Wed	14	3	5	6	11	14	13
Sheff Sat	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Utd	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Wed	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Sat	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Utd	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Wed	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Sat	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Utd	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Wed	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Sat	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Utd	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Wed	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Sat	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Utd	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Wed	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Sat	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Utd	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Wed	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Sat	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Utd	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Wed	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Sat	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Utd	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Wed	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Sat	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Utd	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Wed	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Sat	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Utd	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Wed	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Sat	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
Sheff Utd	14	3	4	7	10	13	12
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Potter shows plenty of promise as Birmingham poach a point at Upton Park

Promotion appears beyond Charlton

Charlton Athletic 0
Birmingham City 0

By LOUISE TAYLOR

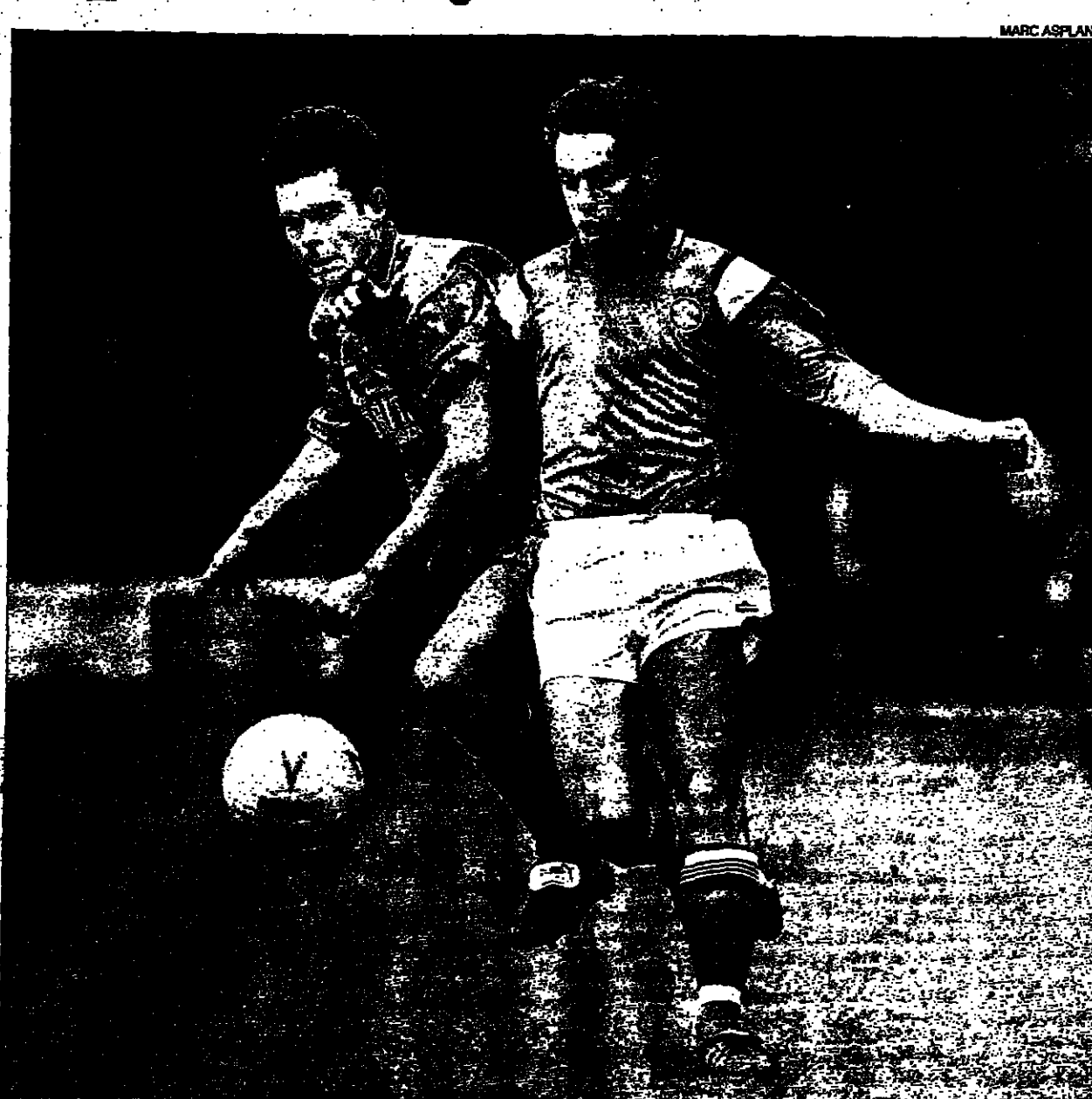
CHARLTON Athletic and Birmingham City failed to buck the form book at Upton Park yesterday. The London side has won only one of its past six first division games. City have collected just one victory in their last nine and both looked thoroughly out of sorts.

Watched by 4,445 spectators, Charlton's lowest league crowd of the season, this was a match with few redeeming features which must have had the television viewers swiftly changing channels.

It took Birmingham almost 40 minutes to win a free kick inside the Charlton half. When they did, it was in a dangerous position, but Matthews shot wildly at Salmon, who was making his first appearance in Charlton's goal for two years. With Birmingham repeatedly losing possession in the midfield, the service to their forwards was, at best, sporadic.

One of the reasons Birmingham failed to put Salmon through his paces was Linvoy Primus. Aged 18 and making his debut in central defence, Primus performed like an old stage and was particularly impressive in the air.

Another youngster who promised much for the future was Graham Potter. Just 17, he made his first appearance at left back for Birmingham and, displaying an uncommon composure on the ball, was probably their best player. The overall outlook for



Arms locked: Minto, of Charlton, holds off Rodgerston during the draw at Upton Park yesterday

Third defeat for Newcastle

Taylor provides glossy finish

By LOUISE TAYLOR

THE first division has been reassured by the events of the past week which suggest that Kevin Keegan and Newcastle United are human after all. United's lead was trimmed to six points when they experienced their third successive defeat of the season, 2-1 to Leicester City at Filbert Street on Saturday.

To make matters worse, Newcastle had Sheedy sent off in the dying seconds, but by then Lowe and Davidson had done the damage, scoring the goals that lifted Leicester, beaten 7-1 at Sheffield Wednesday in midweek, into third place. It is noteworthy that Newcastle's nadir has coincided with the absence of the impressive, but injured, Venson at right back.

Swindon Town, who visit Newcastle on Sunday, are second courtesy of Maske's thirteenth goal of the season,

a fourth-minute penalty in the 1-0 victory at home to Barnsley, the leading pack is looking over its shoulders at Derby County.

Their fifth win in six league games was at the expense of Wolverhampton Wanderers, previously unbeaten at home.

Goalkeepers from Kison and Craig Short did the damage at Molineux. Derby's recovery from an appalling start can be dated to Short's arrival in the centre of their defence after a £2.5 million move from Notts County.

Craig's brother, Chris, was one of the Notts County scorers in their 2-2 draw at Roker Park. Struggling Sunderland donated £15,473 to a fund for North East miners - £1 for every supporter at the match.

Gary Johnson's hopes of being promoted from caretaker to permanent manager of Cambridge United were boosted by a 2-1 win against West Ham United at the Abbey Stadium. Norbury and White proved that there is life after John Beck by scoring the goals which denied one of the division's better away records.

By KEITH BLACKMORE

PETER Eustace, the manager of Leyton Orient, believes that it is going to be a dog-eat-dog season in the second division and events on Saturday gave weight to his argument. By the end of the day, ten teams stood within three points of the leadership.

Last week, Orient were knocked off the top, this time, it was their turn to trip the new leaders, Swansea City, and if their 4-2 win did not quite restore them to the front of the pack, it would have made others sit up and take notice.

Swansea had arrived at Brisbane Road in formidable form. They had conceded only nine goals in 13 league games, giving them a share of the best defensive record in the division, and had only lost twice. But they were swept away by Orient.

The first of two moments of fitness, after 20 minutes,

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Croft's return will add sparkle to a lacklustre event

By ANDREW LONGMORE, TENNIS CORRESPONDENT

HAD the British game been overflowing with talented young players, the nation's tennis system seems to encourage. Her career, which was considerably enhanced by victory in a \$10,000 satellite event at Epsom-on-Sea earlier in the year, is still in its infancy, yet, at the age of 22, she is a year older than Croft when she retired with the following piece of encouragement for future champions: "If you are not enjoying tennis, stop. Life is too short, so go out and enjoy it."

It is also prompts an impish train of thought. What if Croft, television personality, panto-mime queen and part-time club player, were to turn an innocent publicity stunt into a considerable embarrassment for the tennis authorities by winning a match or two, even reaching the semi-final or final?

The prospect is appealing, but unlikely. Though, at the age of 26, she is still six years younger than the British No. 1 and national champion, Jo Durie, Croft has not played a competitive match on the women's circuit since April 1986 when a combination of nerves - she suffered from nervous eczema - and loneliness led to sudden retirement. She keeps fit by running at least 20 miles a week and goes to jazz-dance classes, but has no intention of making a comeback.

Alison Smith, Croft's oppo-

Boardman intends to defend Olympic title

CHRIS Boardman confirmed at the weekend that he wants to remain amateur and defend his Olympic 4,000 metres pursuit title at the 1996 Games in Atlanta (Peter Bryan writes).

He and British Cycling Federation (BCF) officials are meeting later this month, to discuss the basic outline of a special trust fund to be set up before the end of the year that will allow the Hoylake multi-national champion to have certain expenses reimbursed without endangering his amateur status.

The setting up of a trust fund for an Olympic champion would be without precedent in cycling. Boardman's victory on his Lotus Sports bike over the German world champion, Jens Lehmann, in Barcelona made him Britain's first individual

First division										Goal scoring statistics									
ALAN Shearer's league cup strike in midweek moved him back level with Portsmouth's Watkinson on 16 goals, but Chapman is hot on his trail with 12 goals. Coventry remain the latest losers, having bookends. While Cambridge's United's 37 offences put them firmly at the top of the Foul Play chart.																			
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Scot takes European Masters title

Lyle bounces back to seal revival in dramatic finish

FROM MITCHELL PLATT, GOLF CORRESPONDENT, SOTOGRADE

SANDY Lyle won the Volvo Masters yesterday after an extraordinary finale, in which he overcame Colin Montgomerie at the first hole of a play-off on the Valderrama course here.

Lyle appeared to have forfeited his chance near the end of his round, when he shanked his third shot with a nine-iron at the 17th. He has not enjoyed the best of fortune in recent years and looked up with trepidation as the ball flew out of bounds, over the wall on the right. However, it ricocheted off a tree back on to the course. Lyle still faced a difficult shot of 60 yards, but with the ball above his feet, he played an adroit recovery which left him with a putt of five feet for his par, which he coaxed home.

Montgomerie, who had finished 30 minutes earlier, tangled with the trees at the first extra hole, where his drive struck a branch overhanging the left edge of the 10th tee.

Players chase £25m

EUROPE'S leading golfers will play for almost £25 million next year (Mitchell Platt writes). There will be 39 official Volvo Tour events in addition to the Alfred Dunhill Cup, World Match Play Championship and Johnnie Walker world championship.

Ken Schofield, executive director of the PGA European Tour, announced the schedule yesterday and said: "We are most fortunate in that our game is not in recession and we can face 1993 with a high degree of confidence."

"We must remain sensitive to the present economic difficulties, and we may suffer

some setbacks, but we will visit 19 countries and will play on courses of the highest quality." The European prize fund ten years ago was £2.2 million; in 1987, it was £8.3 million. The growth since then has coincided with Volvo becoming the corporate sponsor of the Tour and it has confirmed it will continue its support for at least another three years.

The Tour will begin two weeks' earlier than normal with the Madeira Island Open at Santa Cruz, Funchal, from January 14 to 17. The curtain comes down at Valderrama from November 4 to 7.

second only to Barry Lane (£219,458) in the Johnnie Walker Ryder Cup points table. "I very much want to play against the Americans again," he said.

Lyle would be the first to admit that this was not one of the more majestic rounds of his 15-year career, but it might prove to be one of the most important.

He was compelled to dig deep into his reserves after playing the outward half in 37, two over par, when he took three putts at the 14th. Lyle recovered by hitting a three-iron to 12 feet for a two at the 15th and producing a delightful chip from behind the 16th green. Christy O'Connor Jr, who finished third, and Tony Johnstone and Eduardo Romero, who shared fourth place, all challenged, but wilted in the windy conditions and shot 74.

Montgomerie compiled an excellent 69, in which he did not drop a shot, to finish with a total of 287 and tie with Lyle, who completed a 73. Montgomerie had good reason to feel disappointed, but he held his head high. "I can't do any more than play the best golf of my life," he said. "I was cold when I teed-up in the play-off, and I smothered the drive. I was also distracted by a lot of noise, but that is no excuse. I'm not angry; I just seem destined not to win this year."

He has finished runner-up on two other occasions this season, and by winning £444,712 finished third in the Order of Merit, behind Nick Faldo (£708,522) and Bernhard Langer (£488,912).

Jim Payne, 22, who had a final round of 77, took the Rookie of the Year award ahead of Gary Evans.

LEADING FINAL SCORES (GB and Ireland unless stated): 287, A. Lyle (win) and C. Montgomerie (2nd); 290, J. O'Connor Jr (3rd); 291, T. Johnstone (4th); 292, E. Romero (5th); 293, B. Lane (6th); 294, J. O'Connor Sr (7th); 295, J. O'Connor Jr (8th); 296, J. O'Connor Jr (9th); 297, J. O'Connor Jr (10th); 298, J. O'Connor Jr (11th); 299, J. O'Connor Jr (12th); 300, J. O'Connor Jr (13th); 301, J. O'Connor Jr (14th); 302, J. O'Connor Jr (15th); 303, J. O'Connor Jr (16th); 304, J. O'Connor Jr (17th); 305, J. O'Connor Jr (18th); 306, J. O'Connor Jr (19th); 307, J. O'Connor Jr (20th); 308, J. O'Connor Jr (21st); 309, J. O'Connor Jr (22nd); 310, J. O'Connor Jr (23rd); 311, J. O'Connor Jr (24th); 312, J. O'Connor Jr (25th); 313, J. O'Connor Jr (26th); 314, J. O'Connor Jr (27th); 315, J. O'Connor Jr (28th); 316, J. O'Connor Jr (29th); 317, J. O'Connor Jr (30th); 318, J. O'Connor Jr (31st); 319, J. O'Connor Jr (32nd); 320, J. O'Connor Jr (33rd); 321, J. O'Connor Jr (34th); 322, J. 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Inquest begins on Britain's humiliation in the Breeders' Cup Raiders routed in sweltering sun

FROM RICHARD EVANS IN MIAMI

THE inquest into British racing's darkest day was underway yesterday following the humiliating rout in the Breeders' Cup — with some trainers vowing never to return to the Gulfstream Park "dog track".

For the second time in the last four Breeders' Cup, Britain's raiding party suffered a whitewash at the Florida racecourse. Worse than that, the strongest challenge ever mounted across the Atlantic was made to look like no-hope.

Not one of our dozen horses reached the frame, nor ever threatened to do so.

With the exception of Dr Devious in the 12-furlong Turf, no British horse travelled smoothly after the gates opened.

A combination of the tight track, only a mile round, and the kickback from the dirt, which left horses and riders caked in mud, meant runners used to the delights of Ascot and Newmarket were being scrubbed along soon after the start in a vain attempt to go the furious pace.

On one of America's fastest tracks, which saw two course records broken, it was akin to watching horses competing against greyhounds.

With Mr Brooks having been put down in the opening Sprint and Sheikh Al-Bedou finishing fourth, half-length in front of Elbio, the race was over.

During a sweltering afternoon, with temperatures reaching 87 degrees, Love Of Silver beat only two horses in the Juvenile Fillies. "She was always labouring," Michael Roberts said.

Martindale finished a respectable fifth, five lengths ahead of Culture Vulture in the Distaff. "This is a totally different ball game to what I'm used to," Walter Swinburn said. "But I can't knock her run."

Selkirk endured more traffic problems than drivers on the M25 and, when he eventually found room, failed to pick up in the Mile. He ended up fifth.

"Oh dear," said Ian Balding, with a resigned sigh. "We are all struggling. Our fellow just didn't come home."

Firm Pledge, third to Zafonic in the Dewhurst Stakes, beat only one horse in the Juvenile and was some 30 lengths off the winner.

Similarly, Corrupt had only one behind him in the Turf, where the battling qualities of Dr Devious were rewarded with fourth place.

In the \$3 million Classic Zoman finished twelfth, while Rodrigo De Triano was virtually tailed off. He finished last, beaten out of sight, more than 35 lengths behind A P Indy.

Walter Swinburn, who replaced the injured Lester Piggott on the dual 2,000 Guineas winner, said: "Once I got into the back straight he seemed to go completely to sea. I pulled my whip through to my left hand and waved it at him but to no effect. I hit him once and he backpeddled from then on — that sums up the lovely day we have had."

He blamed the defeat of Rodrigo De Triano, and other British runners, on the glutinous dirt, which was kicked into their faces by the front runners and the inability to handle the surface — plus the intense heat and humidity.

After the worst day in his meteoric career as a trainer, Peter Chapple-Hyam said: "Rodrigo didn't handle the dirt. I am sorry for the horse — not myself."

"At least he is still in one piece which, unfortunately, is more than can be said for Lester and Mr Brooks."

"I feel most sorry for all the horses that came over here. We had a bad trip and nothing went right for any of them."

"You can't do it here. It doesn't matter what you bring over. I don't think any British horse can win here."

"With this track you can never get a breather into the horse. Then there is the heat. It just doesn't work. I would not come back here again, whatever."

John Gosden, who trained in California before moving to Newmarket, is only too aware of the uphill struggle facing British runners. When he used to be sent British horses while in the US, only one in 20 made the transition to the different conditions.

He said: "I would love to see the American horses come over to Britain and see how they get on. At Newbury on softish ground they would need the oxygen bottle in the final quarter mile, and they would be going home with nought out of seven."

The Breeders' Cup is due to be staged at Santa Anita in California next year — a week later than normal — where similar conditions and a longer flight for foreign horses will make winning every bit as difficult.

Piggott's fall, page 3



Under the spotlight: A P Indy and his jockey Eddie Delahoussaye return in triumph after their impressive victory in the \$3 million Breeders' Cup Classic

GOING: FIRM (HURD) LAST (D)

PRINT (2m 10y) 1. THIRTY SLEWS (E. Delahoussaye) 2. MONTANA (J. Velazquez) 3. RICHIE (J. Velazquez) 4. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 5. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 6. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 7. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 8. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 9. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 10. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 11. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 12. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 13. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 14. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 15. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 16. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 17. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 18. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 19. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 20. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 21. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 22. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 23. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 24. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 25. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 26. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 27. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 28. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 29. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 30. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 31. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 32. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 33. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 34. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 35. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 36. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 37. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 38. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 39. SHAKA (J. Velazquez) 40. 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OPERA page 30
Put upon: Donald
Maxwell as Wozzeck in a
production of
unequaled power

ARTS

DESIGN page 31
Put up: Richard
Rogers's airport
terminals at Marseille
and (possibly) Heathrow



THEATRE: Broadway favourite Neil Simon has a West End opening; Italian director Giorgio Strehler is also in town

Smack dab in the middle class



Essentially upbeat (and, of course, Jewish) view: Ron Berglas as Uncle Louie, with Benny Grant (Artie) and Ross McCall (Jay) in Neil Simon's *Lost In Yonkers*

Mention Alan Ayckbourn in America, and the reflex response comes back. "Oh yes, the English Neil Simon." So, on the eve of the West End premiere of Simon's *Lost In Yonkers*, one could ask if the comparison works both ways. Is Simon "the American Alan Ayckbourn"? The two men have much in common: both are in middle age (at 65 Simon is 13 years Ayckbourn's senior); both occupy comparably singular positions in their respective countries' theatres. On Broadway, Simon is virtually alone in being a celebrity playwright who sells tickets, and he is the only living American dramatist to have a Broadway theatre named for him. In Britain, Ayckbourn is no less consumer friendly, ranking with Shakespeare in terms of how often his plays are performed. The comparison is of particular interest, since each writer has been under-represented in the other one's country. While London has embraced Simon's musicals (*Little Me*, *Sweet Charity*, *They're Playing Our Song*), it has been wary of his plays: indeed, his 1985 *Blue Blood*, winner of that year's Tony Award for best play, has yet to be seen in London, while its sequel, *Broadway Bound*, never got beyond Greenwich. Would *Lost In Yonkers* even be here now without the star power of Maureen Lipman? Unlikely. As Simon remarked of his work prior to the National Theatre's 1986

Matt Wolf on the similarities between Neil Simon and our own popular playwright of the middle classes, Alan Ayckbourn

staging of *Brighton Beach Memoirs*: "I just figured it was a lost cause in London, and I always attributed it to that thing about how plays don't travel well." Ayckbourn's New York CV is similarly selective: while American critics often rave about his work in England, they are unable to galvanise public support for it once it crosses the Atlantic. It took Ayckbourn's 1987 play *A Small Family Business* five years to get to Broadway this April, where it closed after eight weeks, losing over \$1 million. *Woman in Mind* was an off-Broadway success, with Stockard Channing, but never made the commercial leap, and *A Chorus of Disapproval* and *Man of the Moment* have not been seen in New York at all. Small wonder that Ayckbourn points to Broadway's "peculiar set of rules and requirements. All my plays are risky there; that's where they appear to be at their most foreign."

The irony is that the writers are linked in ways that go beyond their shared fate on one another's shores. Both are prolific (Ayckbourn is on play number 44, Simon is approaching his thirtieth), deal with one-liners, generally com-

mercially successful, and beloved by exactly that vast middle class which their plays are about. These writers tell a landscape of failing marriages, wounded children, and the relevant heartache of home and hearth: the wider world, one senses, exists mainly to be shut out, like the urban nightmare in Ayckbourn's 1988 *Henceforward*,... whose hero fends off the marauding "daughters of darkness."

"They tell a landscape of failing marriages, wounded children and domestic heartache"

Form aside, the content varies as well. While the American does not flinch from unpleasant subjects — alcoholism (*The Gingerbread Lady*), death (*Chapter Two*), even mild retardation (*Lost In Yonkers*) — his is the essentially upbeat (and, of course, Jewish) view of the quip as social palliative, the one-liner as balm. Ayckbourn's comedy, by contrast, resides largely in embarrassment. In broader terms, it is the difference between a mainstream artist (Simon) who reassures the status quo, and another (Ayckbourn) who fundamentally undercuts it, shifting in recent plays to explicit discussion of terms such as evil. "Most of my characters hate each other," Ayckbourn says, pinpointing the writers' exact place of departure. Simon's people may be deceived in life and love, but they are always protected by a playwright who offers them the salvation they cannot find themselves. Ayckbourn, in turn, locates the bourgeoisie in their fitted suburban kitchens, only to acknowledge a particularly British truth which Simon's ever-resilient folk would never put up with. In Simon's world, the quest is towards happiness via heartache; Ayckbourn lifts his people out of their heavenly creature comforts and sends them tumbling into a scary, interior hell. *Lost In Yonkers* previews from November 10 at the Strand (071-930 8800), opens November 12

Argumentative good company

Benedict Nightingale sees the Piccolo Teatro di Milano, at the Lyttelton in *Le Baruffe Chiozzotte*

MAINLAND Europe may know Giorgio Strehler as one of the great directors; but he and his Piccolo Teatro di Milano have not paid a professional visit to our island corner for 25 years. Back in 1967 they brought Goldoni's *Servant of Two Masters* to the World Theatre Season. Now they are here with one of the same dramatist's less familiar pieces; and it is easy to see why they are so widely admired. They bring a deft realism, an unpretentious gravity all their own, to a play the textbooks tend to parrotise as one of Goldoni's quainter exercises in dialect comedy.

Mark you, there were times when I wondered if the company shouldn't have found a more readily comprehensible way of reintroducing itself to London. Goldoni set the play among the fishing families of Chioggia, the town near Venice where he had once held the post of assistant to the governor's clerk. That means it is mostly written in a patois which he himself admitted even Venetians might not always understand. When I saw it, the Italians behind me spent the interval flipping through the company's bumph, their quizzical snorts suggesting they were watching a play set among haggis-makers in a suburb of 18th-century Glasgow.



Understanding and intimacy

Perhaps they found what they wanted in a glossary that explains that "gotti" means "glasses" and "granzi" "grabs". Or they were checking the synopsis of a plot that takes some penetrating. This involves the "baruffe", or quarrels, that begin when one young woman talks flirtatiously of another's fiancé, and her victim retaliates by making eyes at her rival's admirer. Within moments the men are pulling knives, repudiating loved ones, and threatening the peace of Chioggia itself. And for the next two odd hours the rows steam and simmer, until an accord is hammered out by the governor's clerk's assistant Isidoro, Goldoni's portrait of his wryly exasperated self. It took me quite a time to identify the people within the 18th-century donkey jackets, dresses and clogs; but even before that, Strehler's skill

in, say, the ferocious blustering of the Chioggian mamas or the attempts of the children to finish a game of hopscotch while shutters are banging open and insults being bawled over their heads. Again, there is the scene in which Isidoro takes the evidence of an aged, battered fisherman who mumbles away, not in Venetian, not even in Chioggian, but in his own private sub-dialect. It delighted Goethe when he saw the play in 1786. As Strehler stages it, with that blend of warmth and precision for which he is renowned, it is hilarious today.

Stoppard returns to the stage



the Donmar Warehouse in Covent Garden this January. Come March, and he will have completed a circle. Sam Mendes's production, with Russell Beale still at its centre, returns to Stratford to open the 1993 season, but this time at the Swan. At the same time Kenneth Branagh's *Hamlet*, due at the Barbican in December, will re-open the Royal Shakespeare Theatre. Such reverse transfers, from London to Stratford, have never been normal Royal Shakespeare Company practice; but if its director, Adrian Noble, has his way, they could occur every March. Not only should they help banish start-of-season nerves and glitches; they will reduce rehearsals, set-up times, the length of everybody's stay in Stratford, and therefore costs.

Rap on the Wall
A 22-YEAR-OLD rock/rap star from East Berlin, known simply as J., has caused a stir in the European media with his politically-charged comments about life in post-reunification Germany. Now he is on his way to Britain to spread



Elizabeth Taylor: playing Barbra Streisand's mother in new film

his message. J. has shocked some and struck a chord with others with his wholesale rejection of the bitter fruits of reunification. On his first UK single, "Born on the Wrong Side of Town", he states: "Do you know how it used to be? Everybody had a job, guaranteed. We didn't have much but we had our dignity. Then they came and promised liberty. Lies, lies, lies! All they delivered is poverty." J., who left East Germany before

the Wall came down, is now based in Paris where he prints a monthly newsletter, *Germany Alert*, for distribution to media and human rights organisations worldwide. An outspoken opponent of the resurgent neo-Nazi movement, he has been nominated for the 1992 Reebok Human Rights Award. To coincide with the release of his album debut, *We Are The Majority*, he has announced a tour of British universities beginning at

Bristol on November 9 and ending at Birmingham on November 20. The shows, featuring J. and his four-piece band, will be preceded by discussion sessions during which the pop star will talk to students about "the reality of right-wing politics" in Germany.

AFTER a life strewn with multiple marriages and dire illnesses, Elizabeth Taylor now faces her greatest challenge: playing Barbra Streisand's mother. Only ten years separate the two formidable ladies — Taylor is 60, Streisand 50 — so it will be the makeup man's job to widen the gap for the upcoming film *The Mirror Has Two Faces*, a story of love blossoming through the personal ads from Richard LaGravenese, author of *The Fisher King*. Streisand had planned to direct herself, but the lucky person now being considered is Michael Caton-Jones, who last directed Michael J. Fox and a pig in *Doc Hollywood*.

Last chance...
WILDE's *A Woman of No Importance* is packed with quotable wit — "Nothing succeeds like excess." "The unspeakable in full pursuit of the unobtainable" — and Philip Prowse's sumptuous production emphasises the glittering society in which his characters move. But Prowse also reveals the cruelty, thoughtless or deliberate, that lies just beneath the surface of Wilde's play, an attack on the hypocrisy of society. The production is at the Haymarket (071-930 8800) until Saturday.

COMPUTERS UPDATE



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Terminal boredom can be beaten

DESIGN: the new generation of airport terminals will bring glamour back to travel, says

Marcus Binney

Airport terminals are now the prize commissions of our age for architects and engineers. Work began last year on Renzo Piano's new £700 million terminal at Osaka in Japan. Sir Norman Foster and Partners are now doing detailed drawings for the new £500 million Hong Kong terminal, scheduled to open in 1997. And Sir Richard Rogers's £800 million Terminal 4 at London Heathrow will open in 2002, if permission is given following a public enquiry.

The Americans, though, have come up with the largest project of them all: Denver, Colorado, with a 53-square-mile site, has space for six runways.

This year has seen new terminals by Rogers at Marseille, Ricardo Bofill at Barcelona and Malaga, and Rafael Moneo at Seville. Huge extensions are underway at Amsterdam, Frankfurt and Washington.

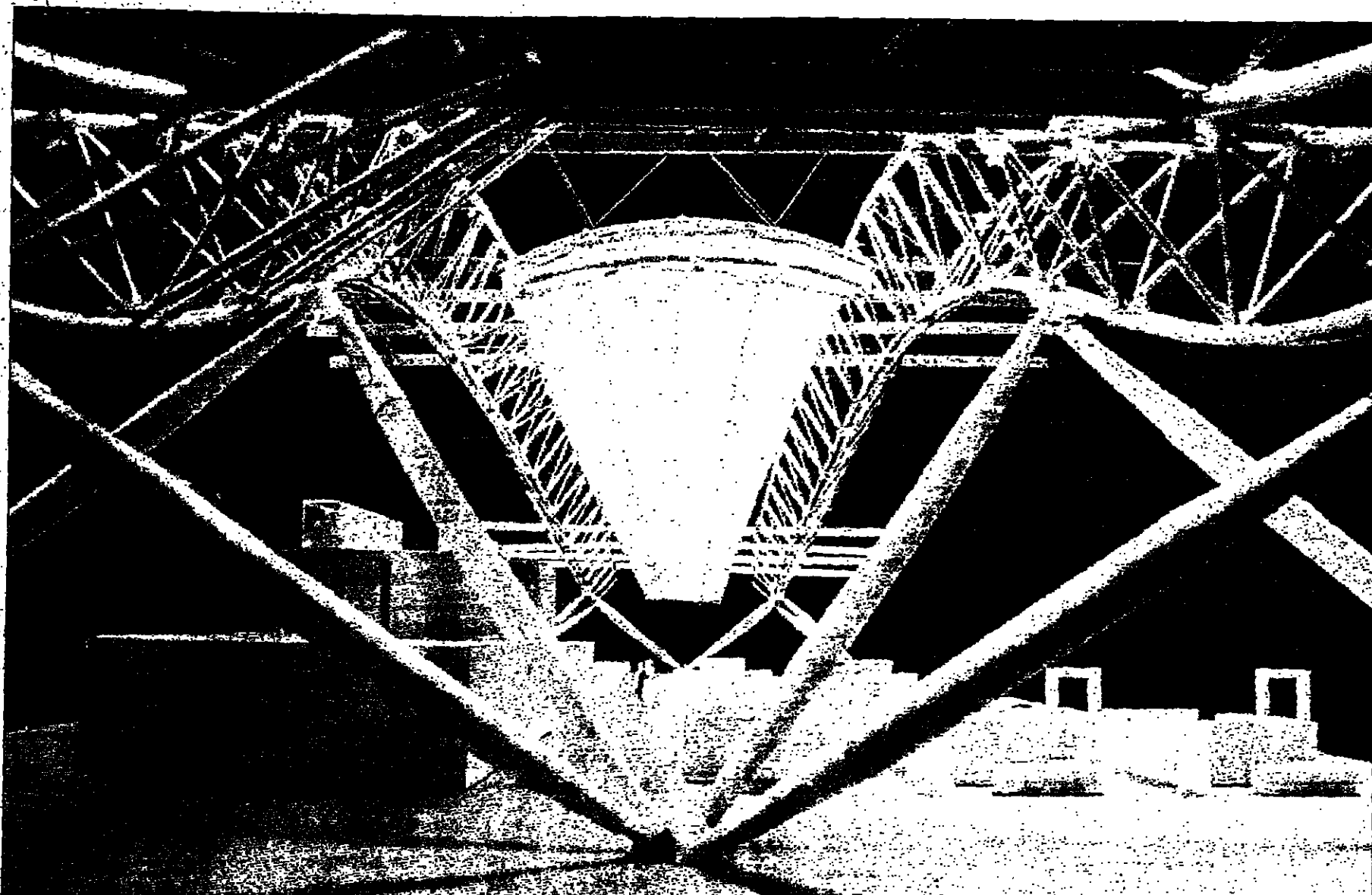
Until recently most new airports have been anonymous glass boxes, as aseptic as hospitals. Now, with the input of the world's most adventurous engineers, they are almost sculpture, with vast open spaces, sweeping walls and sweeping public rooms. Forms taken from eroplanes, birds and missile trajectories are the order of the day.

Pete Hodgkinson, project director in charge of Barcelona, talks of the terminal's glazed street: "a Rambl in which one can walk, dreaming of the swooping flight of planes." For Piano, Osaka is "an attempt to recapture the sense of adventure generated by the great railway termini of the last century." At Terminal Five Rogers wants "to celebrate the magic and excitement of travel."

The buzz word is no longer function or efficiency but image. And no architect or engineer generates stronger images than the Spaniards. Santiago Calatrava, who is qualified in both disciplines. Describing his design for a new terminal at Bilbao in northern Spain, he says: "I see the airport as a gate. Hence the big arch which you can see from afar, and look out through into the landscape. The route into the fifth facade."

Inside, he continues, airports are "intensely busy at pedestrian level, full of fascias and signs. So a prominent, lofty, clear roof structure over the whole concourse creates a sense of order." But Bilbao, he stresses, "will be economical. There will be no cladding elements, just steel and concrete."

At the Marseille terminal Rogers



Model of Renzo Piano's Kansai airport in Japan: "the main feature is the swooping roof, with a silhouette almost as pronounced as that of a dinosaur skeleton"

also aims at creating a "strong new image". On the outside this is achieved by the Tube, a new high-level walkway running the length of the existing buildings, just in front of the departure lounges. Glass walls, says Rogers, "provide splendid views for arriving passengers over the airport and surrounding hills."

In the new concourse engineering comes to the rescue of curtain glass walls in the form of giant longbow trusses. Over the entrance Rogers plans an eye-catching group of lightweight steel parasols to become the airport symbol.

One of the most ingenious attempts to create an airport language is the new extension to Heathrow's Terminal One designed by Nicholas Grimshaw and Partners. This is what the French call "architecture parlante", design that proclaims its purpose.

David Harris, a partner in Grimshaw's, explains: "It has a life expectancy of just nine years, so it had to be cheap. We set out to create an image of travel by using curved surfaces, a tube clad in profiled aluminium inside and out.

Even the groups of curved oval windows echo those of the jets passengers are about to board.

At Hong Kong Foster's challenge is to give consistency and coherence to a vast terminal that will be 1.4 kilometres long. His partner, Ken Shuttleworth, explains: "A very simple roof unites the terminal by the use of a simple overall geometry. Wherever you are you will sense the same quality of space. The vaults are always going in one direction, like corridors, so you can immediately orientate yourself."

As at Stansted, the mechanical plant is placed below, so the terminal is top-lit throughout. Piano's new airport at Osaka is being built on a new artificial island in the bay, reached by a four-kilometre causeway. It is intended, he says, to strike "a totally new balance between technology and nature, machine and man, the future and tradition."

Travellers, says Piano, "will land and leave enchanted by the peculiar magic of all islands. Nature will have a free hand." So that it does not become too attractive as a habitat for wildlife, the presence of

birds will be restricted by live hawks, as well as artificial robotic computer hawks and ultrasound.

Piano's near mile-long terminal was designed with the British engineer Peter Rice, who died last month, and the Japanese Nori Okabe. The main feature is the swooping roof, with a silhouette almost as pronounced as that of a dinosaur skeleton. Piano explains: "The aerodynamically curved steel arches are sprung like early biplanes." But the vast spans, coming to rest on small globe supports, will create the most dramatic glass and steel interior seen since the Galerie des Machines in Paris opened in 1889.

Inside the main feature is the canyon, "a slot", 25 metres high, 30 metres wide, along which passengers walk or ascend in landscaped surroundings on lifts and bridges flung amongst trees and greenery. Internal light levels are designed to maintain the right climate for growing bamboo.

Phillip Dille, one of the project directors, says: "Curved buildings are often disproportionately more

expensive than straight ones, but the geometry of the roof has been designed so that the cladding panels and steel components repeat throughout the length of the building."

While Hong Kong and Osaka represent extremes of the peninsular layout, Paul Andreu, architect of the airports in Paris, is determined to keep walking distances short. At Roissy's Terminal Two, his banana-shaped terminals, flanking oval roundabouts, provide a distance of 70 metres from car to plane.

The trend in airports remains strongly high-tech. Even Ricardo Bofill, normally as monumental as they come, moves on at Barcelona from Cyclopean Palladio to sparse transparency.

A genuine alternative is provided by Moneo's new airport at Seville. Solid, windowless walls initially suggest some nuclear silo, though the pyramid roofs strike a lighter note. Inside is a world of vast horseshoe arches and beehive domes. This may yet be the prelude to a classical airport, complete with ancient Greek klismos chairs and

Trojan lettering, called for by the architectural critic David Watkin.

Are such backward glances a prelude to greater interest in the preservation and restoration of early airports? Shoreham, used for the *Poirot* television series, has just been repainted in its original cream. Birmingham's original south terminal, now used for freight, is another survivor. Paris's Le Bourget, so neglected, is said to be the best period piece of all.

The first air terminal to have a preservation order slapped on it was Saarinen's Dulles Airport at Washington, built in 1961-62 and listed 20 years later. Calder Loth, the Virginia historian who prepared the citation, says: "It was put on the register to ensure that if it was extended this would be done to Saarinen's original plans. Listing was also the prelude to clearing out some 20 years of accumulated clutter and restoring some dignity to the place."

Confronted with what one architect calls the insistent "lack of humanity of airports", Foster, Piano and Rogers may yet one day be glad of a listing.

TELEVISION

Migrants at the movies

Hollywood was the new Babel. As *City of Strangers* (BBC 2, last night) pointed out, Warner Brothers' classic *Sherwood Swashbuckler*, *The Adventures of Robin Hood* (1938), had a Hungarian director, a Polish designer, an Austrian composer, an Australian star and a cast collected from America, England and places East. Hollywood was a land of migrants.

The moguls who created it — Zukor of Paramount, Mayer of MGM, Laemmle of Universal, the Cohns of Columbia, the Warner brothers, William Fox — mostly shared the same history. Jewish immigrants from Eastern Europe, they worked hard for their first small piles, then invested them in nickelodeons. From exhibition they moved into production. First-hand knowledge of the tastes of their backstreet nickelodeon audiences made them shrewd showmen.

With the coming of sound Hollywood set to sweeping up the world's musical talent. Gifted European composers like Max Steiner and Erich Wolfgang Korngold defined American film music. In the Thirties and Forties, Hollywood probably boasted the greatest concentration of musical talent in the world. In *City of Strangers* Vincent Price recalled a day in 1943 when Stravinsky, Rachmaninov and Schoenberg all chanced into his gallery at the same time. When Franz Werfel and Thomas Mann arrived too, he was too awed to stay.

Price was one of the few Hollywood survivors in the programme, which mostly depended on archive interviews with long-gone personalities. The most lucid commentary was provided by Neal Gabler, whose 1989 book *An Empire of Their Own* seems to have been the basis for the programme. Gabler's engaging thesis is that Hollywood, the invention of polyglot Jewish immigrants, in its turn reinvented America for the world. Traditional America, with its white picket fences and community solidarity, was created not in the 19th century, but in the Thirties, by these new Americans.

The subject is rich, and it is a pity that *City of Strangers* was the kind of vague and sloppy movie documentary that seemed acceptable until Brownlow and Gill's *Hollywood* and its sequel established new standards. No writer is credited for the movie's half-truths and less, narrated by Sam Wanamaker. It may be colourful to describe Mayer as a rag-picker and Zukor as a floorsweeper, but the truth, particularly about Zukor, the rabbinically educated business prodigy — is far more interesting.

DAVID ROBINSON

No age limit on adventure

Jeremy Kingston previews the European Arts Festival's week-long international season of theatre for young people

The events in this year's European Arts Festival are wide-ranging — dance, opera, jazz, drama, film and exhibitions of almost every sort — and all have come here from the other member states of the European Community. Many are touring, so as to be seen by as wide an audience as possible, and a number have been funded totally by the festival.

One of these is the "Breaking Boundaries" project playing this week in the Tricycle Theatre in Kilburn, north London, the Lyttelton Theatre at the National, and in 12 venues "outside" London. "Breaking Boundaries" is one of the events in the festival's youth sector which John Drummond, artistic director, was particularly keen to include. "In other parts of Europe there for young people tends to be in advance of our own. We chose five companies that, aside from their quality, offered little or no language barrier."

To see how one of these companies performs on its home ground, I set off for the small town of Gillinge in Denmark in search of Teatret.

The company, three actors and one technician had already assembled the set at one end of the local sports hall. Six rows of benches, chairs and tables were being arranged in front, for the 150 kids from the school across the road.

All the "Breaking Boundaries" shows have been given age guidelines, and for *Night Train* (Wattogel) the suggestion is "12 years upwards", though at Gillinge the average age was three years older. *Night Train* is the story of three boyhood friends who meet by chance as adults in the station where one of them

works as a cleaner. Together they travel back on the night train to their childhood where they once shared adventures.

The set consists of little more than parallel metal screens which are rattled when trains thunder past on the way to romantically far-away places. When the actors become boys they sometimes perch on top of the front screens, which then represent the edge of a canal or a parapet of a railway cutting. None of them ends up as contented as he hoped, but this is somehow not a bleak conclusion because of the actors' verve and their sense of fun when playing boys the age of their audience.

Teatret was founded six years ago by Hans Ronne and his wife, company designer Gitte Bastrup. Last year they and the two other actors worked out what they wanted the play to tell and what their characters would be. Cathrine Pober then joined them as director to help shape their improvised work, and the resulting play has been touring all year. *Night Train* is being given seven more performances in London and Nottingham this week.

Other companies taking part in the festival include two from Italy: Tam Teatromusica with *Town Map*, the adventures of a modern-day Marco Polo, performed inside a tent (four-to-eight-year-olds), and Teatro delle Briciole's *Nobody Blinded the Giant*, a re-telling of the Cyclops legend using a spectacular five-metre tall puppet (for six years upwards).

From Portugal the Teatro O Bando is bringing *Tomorrow*, where two marionettes find they can move by themselves and fall in love (for seven years



Ready to break boundaries: Danish company Teatret

upwards). Later in the month Wet Paint Theatre from Ireland performs *Tangles* (for 14 years upwards), using dance, drama and lyrics to explore schoolboy sexuality in a "non-judgemental way that leaves even the most sceptical audi-

ence jumping with delight". ● *Tricycle Theatre*, 269 Kilburn High Road, London NW5 (071-328 1000). ● *Lyttelton Theatre*, South Bank, London SE1 (071-928 2252). For information on performances "outside" London: 0634 819141.

More great drama on offer

● This week's offers, exclusive to Theatre Club members, include tickets for Stephen Sondheim's latest musical, a chance to meet Ned Sherrin and an exclusive Boxing Day event with the RSC.

To order tickets for the events below telephone the Theatre Club on 071-413 1412, available 24 hours a day, or contact the theatre direct during normal opening hours quoting *The Times* offer.

To apply for membership send a cheque for £12.50 made payable to "The Theatre Club", together with your name, address and daytime telephone number to: The Theatre Club, PO Box 3, Owen Road, Diss, Norfolk IP22 3HH. (If you need more information please telephone 071-413 1412. Each member can apply for two tickets for any Club offer.

D'OYLY CARTE OPERA

Wimbledon Theatre November 2 — November 5 The D'Oyly Carte Opera Company are visiting Wimbledon with two of Gilbert and Sullivan's most popular comic operas, and Club members can enjoy the shows whilst

THE TIMES THEATRE CLUB

saving up to £9 on each ticket. Monday November 2 — Wednesday November 4 *The Yeomen of the Guard* (November 2 — November 4) *The Mikado* (November 5) Tickets for Club Members are just £12, which includes a souvenir programme and a free glass of wine. Telephone 081-540 0362

OUR SONG

Apollo Theatre November 23 Written by Keith Waterhouse, directed by Ned Sherrin and starring Peter O'Toole, this show reunites the team that produced the hugely successful *Jeffrey Bernard is Unwell*. Members are invited to meet Ned Sherrin for a question and answer session followed by a buffet meal and glass of wine prior to seeing the show. Tickets are £26 which includes

the pre-show talk, buffet and a top price ticket for the show. Telephone 071-240 1690

ASSASSINS

Donmar Warehouse at Thomas Neal's December 16, 7.30pm A chance to visit the refurbished Donmar Warehouse and see the premiere production, *Assassins* by Stephen Sondheim and John Weidman. Afterwards members are invited to meet artistic director Sam Mendes. As a bonus, we have arranged a special price dinner (£14.50) at Neal Grossman's new restaurant downstairs at Thomas Neal's, Mezzaluna New York. Tickets for the performance and talk are £19.

Members wishing to dine afterwards should contact the restaurant direct on 071-379 3336.

WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA WOOLF?

West Yorkshire Playhouse, Leeds November 16, 6.00pm Enjoy an à la carte meal before the performance of Edward Albee's best-known play starring Gwen Taylor and Brian Protheroe, and afterwards meet the cast and

company members over coffee and pecan pie. Tickets £25 inclusive of dinner, top price ticket, cast reception and autographed programme. Telephone 0532 442111

ROYAL SHAKESPEARE COMPANY

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Banish the post-Christmas blues with a matinee of the RSC's hilarious production of *The Comedy of Errors* in the best seats followed by a family tea party. Distinguished restaurateurs Justin de Blanks will prepare a substantial high tea while a conjuror entertains you at your table. Tickets for this exclusive Club event are £26.50 — and each adult can bring up to two children under 18 for the reduced price of £16.50 each. After the evening performance on Boxing Day or New Year's Day you can enjoy more entertainment — Spanish style — with tapas, wine, flamenco and magic. Tickets are £30 per head. Please note: this evening cannot be booked on the Club number. Telephone 071-638 8891

IN THE WORLD OF CRIME, SIMON BRETT AND SIMON SHAW TAKE CENTRE STAGE

'Welcome return of actor gunshoe Charles Paris' — GUARDIAN

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CORPORATE BODIES starring Charles Paris

GOLLANCZ

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Calling on their theatrical backgrounds, Brett and Shaw will be teaming up for the most exciting double act this autumn. Come and hear them at:

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Waterstones, Bournemouth (13/11, 8.30 pm) Dillons, Cambridge (18/11, 6.30 pm)
Waterstones, Stratford-upon-Avon (26/11, 8.30 pm)



EDUCATION

Knotting the school ties

Head prefects are the unsung middle managers of public-school life, David Tytler reports

As Britain's public schools return from the half-term, another round of conferences, consultations and urgent decisions awaits their unpaid, unsung middle managers, who are often also responsible for organising events ranging from school assemblies and speech days to concerts and careers conventions.

Nick Bonford, headmaster of Harrow School, west London, says: "The head boy runs the routines on which the smooth operation of the school largely depends. We meet every morning at 8.15, and with a good head of school that meeting is almost the most important of the day. The relationship between the headmaster and the head boy or girl is a close and confidential one. The headmaster

needs the help of the head boy in the same way the head boy needs the help of the headmaster."

"The prefects understand now that their job is not just to discipline the school"

Edward Gascoigne-Pes, head of Harrow, says: "I see my main role as setting an example for the rest of the boys to follow and to motivate the monitors (prefects) to take their role seriously and for them, too, to set an example which helps the school to run smoothly. I think that is quite important."

As well as helping with the day-to-day running of the school, Edward, who holds the post from September to July, also sees himself as responsible for keeping the headmaster informed of what is happening in the school, while the other monitors do the same for the rest of the staff.

Bronie Fiecker, senior prefect at Marlborough College, in Wiltshire, says: "Prefects play a large part in the running of the school, being responsible for such things as assemblies, the chapel, and the dining hall."

Bronie was one of 30 senior prefects from schools, including Harrow, Wellington College and Queenswood, who attended a week-long training course. There was some scepticism before the start of the course, but all the senior prefects found it useful.

Bronie says: "It firmed up many of my ideas and made me determined to introduce

some prefect training and to see things that needed changing."

Traditionally, prefects at Marlborough have been responsible for administering the punishments imposed by "the beaks", which can range from getting up early, to helping with domestic chores, going for a run, being galed or detention. She has introduced a training weekend for prefects and has changed the emphasis of the prefect's role at Marlborough. Prefects can come across as being there only as part of the discipline, to tell you to tuck in your shirt or whatever, but I think they should be there for the other pupils to approach to tell them what is going on in the school.

"All the prefects understand now that their job is not just to discipline the school. The house prefects are very good in

the pastoral role and other prefects have followed their leadership."

Senior prefect at Marlborough are appointed for one term by the Master (head teacher) after consultation with members of the staff and the current senior prefect.

When she was appointed, Bronie believed that the Master should have more direct contact with the prefects from whom he would make the next selection, and has used her daily meetings with the Master to ensure that this is the case. Twice a week she sends two prefects in her place.

One of the most comprehensive management systems run by prefects is at Queenswood School for girls in Hatfield, Hertfordshire, where the head girl is Fiona Gilmore. Unless she has responsibility for running a boarding house, each prefect has a specific role, such as being in charge of music, debating and drama or public relations. Some activities, including charity and music, are supported by committees.

Acknowledging the pressure of A-level work on the prefects, the appointments at Queenswood run from May to May. Fiona says the system takes a lot of pressure off the head girl. "I know who to delegate things to and each area of the school gets more attention. If pupils have a problem, I will help them sort it out. This is especially important for the



Stepping out: monitors at Harrow are expected to set an example to the other boys

younger girls, who can sometimes find it daunting to approach an older girl."

At New Hall, a day and boarding school run by Roman Catholic nuns in Chelmsford, Essex, the head girl, Mary Fend, says: "I have a great deal of say in the running of the school. I see the headmistress every morning to give her the feel of the school. I meet the house captains every morning to know how they are feeling. If there is a problem, then everybody is aware

and we can try to sort it out."

Chris Macfarlane is head of college at Wellington, in Berkshire, where his twin brother Nick is a head of house. His appointment, by a vote among pupils and staff, lasts the whole academic year and he accepts that this puts some pressure on his own A-level studies and plans for Oxbridge. "I can delegate but it was pretty difficult at the beginning of the term when I was not used to it. But that has settled down now," he says.

He sees his role as being an intermediary between the school and the staff. Pupils with grievances can approach the Head of College Council, comprising himself, his deputy and lower-sixth representatives from each of the 14 houses. He can raise problems with the headmaster, other staff, the bursar or the board. Does he think he would have real power to change things? "I haven't tested it out yet but I think I could. The potential is there," he says.

As one door opens another may close

The funding agencies hold the key to the government's brave new world of education

The education bill has appeared hard on the heels of the white paper on "Choice and Diversity". The three short months allowed for consultation do not seem to have changed the education secretary's mind on any material point. The bill is the white paper translated into law.

Much has been made of its size — the biggest ever education bill, with 200 pages, 255 sections and 15 schedules. This is because there is no way of making changes in the law of education as fundamental as those now in hand without an avalanche of legislation. This bill rounds off, but does not complete, the chapter of reform begun in the Baker Act, and its first aim is to replace the structure based on elected local education authorities and governed by the 1944 Education Act. It includes separate and important sections on the education of children with special needs which will force laggard education authorities to fulfil their existing obligations.

In the forefront of the bill, however, stand the Funding Agencies for Schools — one for England and one for Wales. These bodies will be the quango through which the grant-maintained schools receive their money and to whom they will turn for approval if they want to initiate change.

John Patten insists that he does not want to create a big new bureaucracy. He has tried to convey the impression that the Funding Agency for England will be little more than a streamlined post office, sending out monthly cheques to grant-maintained schools with the aid of a funding formula which will minimise the element of individual judgement.

The bill, on the other hand, sets out a string of powers which the education secretary will be able to delegate to the funding agencies. These include dealing with changes in the articles and instruments of government for individual schools; acting on "change of character" applications (as, for example, when a comprehensive school seeks to become a grammar school); and dealing with school closures.

What makes it even harder to get a clear picture of what, and how much, the funding agencies will do, is the bill's commitment to gradualism. So far, fewer than 500 out of 25,000 schools have achieved grant-maintained status. Perhaps the government is right in believing that the momentum behind opting out will mount as parents see the benefits. The snag is that the funding agencies must therefore operate along-

side the local authorities for an indefinite period.

Once 1 per cent of the pupils in primary or secondary education are in grant-maintained schools, the local authority must share responsibilities with the funding agency. When the proportion reaches 75 per cent, the funding agency takes over.

The new legislation depends on goodwill and a readiness to co-operate — something which no law can guarantee. It is easy to see why the Society of Education Officers, the professional administrators who now staff

maintained schools. This is one of the most valuable provisions in the bill. The old system had become ossified; the entry of new players was virtually impossible.

What made the previous system so inhospitable to new voluntary-aided schools, as Muslims have discovered, was the rule of thumb applied by successive education secretaries that no new places should be created in areas where there were already surplus places. The new legislation strengthens the education secretary's power to insist on cuts. So on the one hand the funding agencies will be asked to open new schools and on the other to close schools down.

The funding agencies are bound to become deeply embroiled in local planning. Here is a body which the education secretary would like to present as a glorified post-box, which must have the expertise to devise and defend local rationalisation schemes. These will everywhere be hotly fought — they always are. Part of the process will be to undertake the endless round of consultations and public meetings which accompany unpalatable decisions.

It is difficult to resist the conclusion that ministers have started from the assumption that the funding agencies would be running a national operation while leaving local matters to the governors of schools. In reality, the national education system is made up of hundreds of local sub-systems, based on local geography and demography. At the moment these sub-systems are overseen by local education authorities with local information at their fingertips. If the funding agencies are to carry out the planning function, they will have to set up ever more elaborate regional organisations.

This of course is exactly what the government wants to avoid but cannot, since it is required to fix some public body with the legal responsibility for making sure there is a place available for every child. If school attendance is to be obligatory, you cannot leave the provision of schools entirely to the market.

On Thursday, the third of this year's Times lectures in Oxford will be given by Dr Martin Montgomery of Strathclyde University on "Jennifer's Ear". The "Jennifer" and the "Discourse of Party Election Broadcasts". Philip Howard, of The Times, will lecture on "The Language of Leader-Writing" on November 12, and the final lecture in the series on "Promises to Keep" will be given on November 19 by Professor Richard Hoggart. All lectures are in the Lecture Theatre of the St Cross Building at 5pm.



STUART MACLURE

the education authorities, describe this as a "recipe for duplication and confusion". Much will depend, no doubt, on secondary legislation — the various regulations which the education secretary is empowered to make under the act — but it looks uncommonly like a dog's breakfast.

If the government is right and there is a steady build-up of grant-maintained schools, there will be a parallel build-up of the new bureaucracy. Not only must the funding agency be able to service the existing schools, it must also decide on the starting up of new schools and on "rationalisation", the euphemism for closing and merging schools where there are surplus places.

The bill opens up the possibility of new schools being set up by "promoters" on terms not unlike those which apply to existing voluntary schools. Provided the promoters can put up 15 per cent of the capital cost the funding agencies will be able to accept them as grant-

A degree of maturity at Oxford

Manchester College, exclusively for mature students, has proved its worth with its first finals results

There were those who doubted the wisdom of establishing an Oxford college exclusively for mature students. They feared that it might become a ghetto, which would relieve established colleges of responsibility towards older people wishing to return to full-time education. There were further doubts, expressed by a Cambridge college with many years' experience of mature students, about the ability of anybody over 35 to cope with high-pressure courses culminating in several concentrated days of three-hour exams tailored to the mental agility of young minds.

Many others, however, felt that the moment was right for the creation of a centre for mature students in Oxford, and in January 1990 Manchester College was incorporated into the university. Historically, Manchester is an 18th-century dissenting foundation, which has been based in Oxford since 1889, and since 1961 has prepared students for external London degrees.

Those applying directly to Manchester are deemed to be mature at 25, although 21-year-olds can be referred by other colleges. Despite the Cambridge doubts, it was decided not to set an upper age limit. The most important consideration in selection has been to choose those who would benefit most from an Oxford education.

In June, Manchester's first group of seven Oxford undergraduates sat their finals. At the end of the first stage of the college's Oxford career, two things are clear. The first is that the number of mature people being accepted by the older colleges has not declined. Instead, the percentage of mature students at the



Manchester College students: Mike Lord, Mary Milsom-Davies and David Alderdice

university, although still small, has doubled to nearly 2 per cent. The second is the high level of academic achievement. Manchester had one first, four upper seconds and two lower seconds. An unofficial compilation of the now banished Norrington Table places it comfortably in the upper half. In addition, a Manchester undergraduate won this year's Newdigate Prize for Poetry.

None of this surprises the principal, the Rev Dr Ralph Waller, whose determination to bring the college into the university dates from his appointment in 1988. What has surprised everybody is that the oldest undergraduates have

done best. The student with a first is 55. One of the upper seconds, who narrowly missed a first in English and was placed top of the upper seconds, is 42. She was closely followed by a 39-year-old.

Certainly, older students can experience both academic and social problems in adapting to university life. It is not enough to have a long-held wish to be part of the city of dreaming spires. Romantic notions are quickly destroyed by the pressure of producing two or three essays a week while coping with a full timetable of lectures and tutorials, which in many cases has to be interwoven with the demands of home

and family. Academic problems are fewer if new arrivals have a recent track record, perhaps with the Open University, but although a high level of motivation and wider experience of life are bonuses, mature students have less receptive memories.

Building on their strengths, this year's finalists did noticeably well in the extended essays which can replace some exam papers.

Socially, fears of a ghetto have proved to be unfounded since so much of an undergraduate's time is spent outside college, particularly for those who involve themselves in university activities. Mak-

ing friends is a question of personality rather than age, and links developed spontaneously in an atmosphere which was generally one of amused curiosity and encouragement. On the other hand, the loneliness experienced by many mature students in other Oxford colleges is reduced within a community where the age span is more than 30 years.

The value of the college's contribution to further education has been established beyond doubt. Of the new graduates, one who previously taught in a primary school has been appointed to a tutorial fellowship at London University, where she will combine teaching with research. Another has been elected to a research scholarship at a mainstream Oxford college. Others returning to jobs they left three years ago can now continue their climb up career ladders which were previously blocked by their lack of a degree.

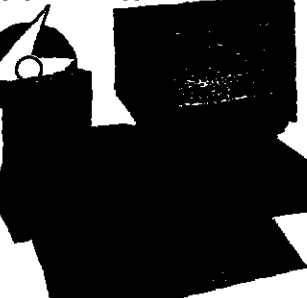
Of course, not all have immediately been fortunate. Unemployment after graduation is as much a problem for mature students as for those in their early twenties. However personally enriching, new qualifications cannot guarantee a job.

The success of Manchester College's initiation into Oxford life has justified its plan for expansion. As the number of its undergraduates rises from 80 to 120, it has established a symbiotic partnership with All Souls. From next term, new buildings on Manchester's site in the centre of the city will be shared by the two colleges, and some of the university's most prestigious fellows will be tutors to the oldest freshers in town.

VIVIAN NOAKES

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Court of Appeal

Survivor enforces right to buy

Harrow London Borough Council v Tonge
Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord Justice Finkelstein and Lord Justice Evans
[Judgment October 22]

An established claim by a secure tenant to a right to buy her home was enforceable after her death against the council by a member of her family who had shared the right to buy with her.

The effect of section 123(3) of the Housing Act 1985 was to deem the member of the family to have become the sole secure tenant to whom the council had a duty to convey the property under section 138 of the Act.

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the London Borough of Harrow against an order of Judge Quinlan QC on December 5, 1991, refusing to grant them an order for possession of the property against the applicant, Miss Patricia Tonge.

Section 123 of the 1985 Act provides: "(1) A secure tenant may

in his notice under section 122 require that not more than three members of his family who are not joint tenants but occupy the dwelling-house as their only or principal home should share the right to buy with him.

"(3) Where by such a notice any members of the tenant's family are validly required to share the right to buy with the tenant, the right to buy belongs to the tenant and they shall be treated for the purposes of this Part as joint tenants."

Section 138 provides: "(1) Where a secure tenant has claimed to exercise the right to buy and that right has been established, then, as soon as all matters relating to the grant... have been agreed or determined, the landlord shall make to the tenant... a grant of the dwelling-house for an estate in fee simple absolute."

Mr Roger McCarthy for the applicant, Miss Patricia Tonge, said: "The council's duty to convey the property to the applicant, Miss Patricia Tonge, is clear."

LORD JUSTICE NOURSE

said that the applicant's mother, Mrs Tonge, had succeeded to the statutory tenancy of 9 Hutton Gardens, Harrow Weald estate, the freehold of which was vested in the council.

In 1988 Mrs Tonge had served a notice on the council under the provisions of section 122 of the 1985 Act claiming the right to buy the premises and, under section 123(1) and (2), that the applicant should share the right to buy with her. The council had admitted the right to buy of Mrs Tonge and the applicant.

By June 1989 all matters relating to the grant had been agreed and the council had agreed to grant the right to buy to the applicant and Mrs Tonge had sought to defer completion of the purchase under the provisions of section 142 of the Act for three years.

In 1990, while the three-year period was running, Mrs Tonge died. There having been one succession to the secure tenancy, section 87 of the Act disallowed another.

The council's view was that the

applicant, not being a secure tenant, no longer had any right to buy the house. They returned the applicant's deposit and served her with notice to quit.

The applicant issued proceedings in the county court claiming an injunction against the council to enforce completion of the purchase.

Under section 123(3) the right to buy had belonged to Mrs Tonge and the applicant jointly and they were to be treated for the purposes of Part V of the Act as joint tenants.

Thus they were deemed to be joint secure tenants for section 138 purposes. After the death of Mrs Tonge, by her survivorship Mrs Tonge was to be treated as having been the sole secure tenant. On that footing there could be no doubt that the council's duty to convey the house to her became enforceable by injunction under section 138(3).

LORD JUSTICE FINKELSTEIN

LORD JUSTICE EVANS

Harrow; David Gouldman & Co.

Regina v International Stock Exchange of the United Kingdom and the Republic of Ireland, Ex parte Elie (1982) Ltd and Another
Regina v Same. Ex parte Thomas

Before Sir Thomas Bingham, Master of the Rolls, Lord Justice McCallum and Lord Justice Leggatt
[Judgment October 16]

Shareholders were not entitled under article 15 of Council Directive 79/279/EEC (i) to be notified of and given the opportunity of making representations about an intended decision of the Stock Exchange's committee on listings to cancel a company's listing or (ii) to apply to the courts to challenge such a decision.

Since there was no doubt as to the effect to be given to article 15 it was unnecessary to refer the matter to the Court of Justice of the European Communities.

The Court of Appeal so held

allowing an appeal by the Stock Exchange from Mr Justice Popplewell's order on the hearing of applications for judicial review by Elie (1982) Ltd and Leonard Brealey, as trustee of a pension fund trust, and Mr Gerard Thomas, of the committee of directors of the latter, in which they had sought, had ordered a reference to the European Court of Justice for a ruling as to the proper construction of article 15 of Directive 79/279.

Article 15 provides: "(1) Member states shall ensure decisions of the competent authorities refusing the admission of a security to official listing or discontinuing such a listing shall be subject to the right to apply to the courts."

"(2) An applicant shall be notified of a decision regarding his application for admission to official listing within six months of receipt of the application."

"(3) Failure to give a decision within the time limit specified in paragraph 2 shall be deemed a rejection of the application. Such rejection shall give rise to the right to apply to the courts provided for in paragraph 1."

Mr Roger Henderson QC, Mr Adrian Sumner and Mr John Cane for the stock exchange; Miss Monica Allan and Mr Marc Rowlands for the applicants in the first application; Mr Thomas in person.

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that the directive was intended, as its long title made plain, to co-ordinate the conditions for the admission of securities to official stock exchange listing.

That was a step towards establishing a single market in securities. In other member states, as here, conditions imposed for the protection of investors, had to

be met before a security was admitted to listing.

There could be no truly common market so long as different conditions were imposed by various member states. Still less could there be a truly common market if it were open to national authorities, under the guise of protecting investors, to make the admission of local securities to listing easier than that of foreign securities.

The policy objectives to be achieved by co-ordinating the listing conditions in the various member states were outlined in the fifth recital to the directive: to provide equivalent protection for investors at community level, to facilitate community-wide listing of member state securities and to enable member states to penetrate each other's securities markets so as to contribute to establishing a European capital market.

His Lordship considered the directive against the background of the proposals from the Commission and the opinions of the European Parliament and the Economic and Social Committee prior to its final adoption. He analysed the provisions of the directive, in particular referring to the seventh recital which stated that "whereas there should be the possibility of a right to apply to the courts in order to challenge the listing of securities by the competent national authorities in respect of the application of the directive, such right was not to restrict the discretion of those authorities."

The parties had agreed that the directive took direct effect. The applicants had argued that:

1 The directive was a measure intended to protect investors, including shareholders such as themselves;

2 Such shareholders were likely to suffer loss or prejudice if the public listing of securities in which they held shares were cancelled;

3 They could not effectively resist a potentially damaging cancellation unless they were notified of an impending decision, were informed of the grounds on which

the decision might be taken, had an opportunity to make representations, and the competent authority was bound to consider their representations before making a decision;

4 The seventh recital and article 15 imposed no restriction on the parties granted a right to apply to the courts;

5 In the light of the foregoing, the intention of article 15 was, or might be, to confer on shareholders the rights contained for;

6 The English court should accordingly seek a ruling on the correct construction of the directive.

Rejecting these arguments, his Lordship said that the primary purpose of the directive was to co-ordinate the listing practice of the competent authorities in the various member states, and not in any way to provide additional protection for investors.

The right to apply to the courts conferred by the directive was on a company or on an issuer alone. In the proposed directive the right provided for was one of appeal. In any ordinary situation such a right was accorded to the party who had been the subject of an adverse decision. There was nothing to suggest that any party other than a company or an issuer came within that category.

Further, the directive was concerned with relations between competent authorities, who were responsible for protecting the interests of investors, and companies or issuers. Nothing in the directive suggested that competent authorities might also have direct relations with investors.

Since it had to be accepted that the directive gave investors no right of recourse to the courts in respect of suspension and refusal of listing, it could not be construed as conferring such a right in respect of cancellation.

His Lordship could not accept the soundness of the fifth point above. There were additional objections particularly to the rights claimed by the applicants before a cancellation decision was made.

LORD JUSTICE GLIDWELL

said that section 5(6) did not impose a duty on a local educational authority to make a statement of special educational needs at any time up to the issue of a final statement of special educational needs that it was

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LORD JUSTICE GLIDWELL said that section 5(6) did not impose a duty on a local educational authority to make a statement of special educational needs at any time up to the issue of a final statement of special educational needs that it was

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obliged to make special provision for a child.

Justification for discouraging union rights

Associated British Ports v Palmer and Others
Before Mr Justice Wood, Mrs R. Chapman and Ms B. Dean
[Judgment October 13]

An employer's action short of dismissal to encourage employees to relinquish trade union rights was not unlawful because the employer's purpose was not to prevent or deter the employees from continuing to be union members nor to penalise them for so doing but for the sake of greater flexibility.

The Employment Appeal Tribunal, so held by a majority, Ms B. Dean dissenting, when allowing an appeal by the trade union, Associated British Ports (ABP), from a decision of a Southampton industrial tribunal last January that the applicants, Mr Terence Palmer, Mr Brian Steadman and Mr Arthur Wyeth, members of the National Union of Rail Maritime and Transport (NURMT), were entitled to compensation for action taken against them by ABP in contravention of section 23(1)(a) of the Employment (Protection) Consolidation Act 1978.

Section 23 of the 1978 Act provides: "(1) Every employer shall have the right not to have action short of dismissal taken against him as an individual by (a) preventing or deterring him from being or seeking to be a member of an independent trade union, or penalising him for so doing."

Mr Patrick Elias, QC and Mr Alan Wilde, QC, for ABP; Mr Peter C. Clark for the applicants.

MR JUSTICE WOOD said that section 23(1)(a) had been considered by the appeal tribunal in *Associated Newspapers Ltd v Wilson* (The Times July 2). There was one major distinction on the facts in that case the trade union had been discouraged whereas in the present case the union, at the relevant time, had not.

The applicants' case was that they had

Morrison is named UK's top performer

■ Britain's best-performing company is a modestly sized Bradford-based supermarket group that sticks to what it knows best and keeps a low profile

BY PHILIP PANGALOS

WILLIAM Morrison, the supermarket group, has been named Britain's best performing company after a survey by *Director* magazine, which is owned by the Institute of Directors.

Of 1,000 public, private and foreign-owned companies examined, Morrison achieved the top rating. Its outlets are mainly located in the North of England, and it has an unbroken record of growth over the past five years.

The survey, which was effectively based on financial performance up to 1990-1, looked for unbroken growth by a range of yardsticks. It shows that Morrison's turnover has advanced from £223 million to £1.13 billion over the past nine years, and its net assets from £30 million to £391 million.

The Bradford-based company's pre-tax and operating profits have shown five years' consistent growth; recently announced interim pre-tax profits were ahead by 34 per cent.

"They have grown and grown and grown," said Nick Bubb at Morgan Stanley, the American securities house. "Admittedly, it's easier to grow from a small base than it is for Sainsbury, but there are plenty of food retailers that have done badly."

However, there are question marks over what can be read from the survey, despite the "stiff" criteria used. Some of the six shortlisted companies have recently fallen from grace. For example, the shares of B&M Group, the construction equipment and engineer-

ing company, plunged from a high of 417p to 85p at the end of last week. Harland Simon, the control systems group, has recently been placed in receivership and Tiphook's shares have taken a knock in recent months.

"It is ironic, but it goes to show how misleading figures can be and how quickly fortunes can change," admitted a spokesman for *Director*.

BT tops the sales table, followed by Unilever, British Telecom, ICI and British Aerospace. BT tops the profits charts, while no fewer than ten of the top 24 profit-makers are privatised water companies.

The survey suggests that the outlook remains gloomy, with continued low growth, pressure on margins, cutbacks in product development and closures.

■ The Confederation of British Industry's latest quarterly *Manufacturing Bulletin* shows that 110 UK companies rank among the world's top 1,000 in terms of market capitalisation. Sixteen companies based in the UK, and 24 in the US, were added to the list.

According to the bulletin, five British manufacturers head the list of Europe's big gainers in market value this year. Wellcome increased by 45 per cent; Grand Metropolitan by 36 per cent; BTR by 33 per cent; Guinness by 31 per cent; and Glaxo by 30 per cent.

The CBI took the figures from the "Global 1,000" published in *Business Week*, the American business magazine.



Swift halves: Sam Whitbread, chairman of Whitbread, one of the big brewers that have quickly cut their estates almost in half

Big brewers fulfil beer orders as MMC calls closing time

BY MARTIN WALLER, DEPUTY CITY EDITOR

THE big brewers were this weekend putting the last touches to the government-inspired sale of the century that has put 11,000 public houses on the market.

Barring a few minor deals yet to be finalised, the industry has successfully complied with the new regulations, the result of the March 1989 monopolies report into beer supply designed to break the power of the beer barons through their tied estates, that came into effect at midnight on Saturday.

Allied-Johns said that by this weekend a handful of its public houses were still to be offloaded and last-minute efforts to do so were being made. Allied has sold 2,400 and is therefore, under the so-called beer orders, left with about 4,400.

already completed their sell-offs. Bass, Britain's biggest brewer and thus worst affected by the beer orders, has sold off 2,740 public houses and is left with an estate of about 4,500.

Whitbread has had to sell or lease free of the tie a total of 2,300. GrandMet has retained 4,350 within Intreprenur Estates, the joint venture, freed from the tie almost 2,000, sold 500 and transferred about the same number to its Chief and Brewer managed house business.

Scottish & Newcastle, the fifth-biggest brewer, soon after the MMC report nearly skirted round the rules by selling 300 public houses, reducing its estate to 2,000. Under the beer orders, at this level it counts as a regional brewer and is therefore exempt from one of the report's most stringent requirements, to allow tenants to sell a "guest beer" from another brewer in their

public houses. The big four on Friday undertook to provide the necessary information to Sir Bryan Carsberg, the director general of fair trading, to allow him to monitor the size of their estates on an annual basis.

The sell-off, while causing the brewers no little disruption and requiring them to dump large portions of their estate on to a depressed property market, has not lacked critics who claim it has had little effect on the price of beer or the brewers' profits. But Peter Jarvis, chief executive of Whitbread, was undoubtedly echoing the thoughts of Sam Whitbread, the chairman, and the rest of the beer barons when he said as the deadline neared:

"What we, and the rest of the industry, now need is a period of stability so that our lessees can feel confident about building their futures."

Delay on growth predicted

BY PATRICIA TEHAN

THE economic upturn expected in the spring is unlikely to materialise, according to the Oxford Economic Forecasting group today.

The OEF says the economy worsened "appreciably" in the late summer and autumn, and gave warning that the government's decision to go for growth will do little to alleviate the economic pain during the rest of the year.

However, the OEF believes prospects for growth later next year are brighter: it predicts that Britain will step tentatively out of recession, with national output expanding 0.8 per cent after an 0.9 per cent fall this year. The OEF also gave a warning against relaxing interest rates too quickly.

County Natwest in the City is more bullish, saying Britain will experience growth of about 1.1 per cent.

GILT-EDGED

Dangers ahead if market neglects long-term trends

Timing is everything in today's gilt market. The bull points for gilts are short-term — the state of the economy, expected interest-rate declines and the 1992-3 funding programme. The bearish arguments are medium- to long-term, notably inflation and supply on a two- or three-year view. Investors must make a judgment on the turning-point between the two.

Funding is an obvious example of the short-term/long-term dichotomy. Assuming, say, a £35 billion PSBR for fiscal 1992-3, the Bank will need to sell roughly £5 billion of gilts over the next five months. That should not be daunting. However, the market is bracing itself for a £50 billion PSBR in 1993-4. That, with £7 billion of redemptions, could mean gross gilt sales of nearly £5 billion a month. That is definitely scary.

This assumes the government braves the wrath of the building societies in its National Savings sales. More importantly, it assumes the Bank does not seek to rebuild its official reserves. The Bank's purchases of sterling in September knocked £13 billion off this year's funding need. If, as seems likely, the Bank tries to rebuild its foreign exchange reserves, it will add to the 1993-4 funding schedule. At the extreme, could £6 billion new gilt issues a month from next April be out of the question?

The outlook for the economy also has a short-term/long-term dimension. The recent decline in business confidence may have been magnified by the initial reaction to September's ERM crisis and the government's political troubles but it still heralds a weakening in the economy. In addition, the summer downturn in continental European economies increases the chance that a

balance of payments constraint will undermine recovery earlier rather than later.

Conversely, it would be wrong to underestimate the long-run positive influences on the economy. First, interest rates of 8 or 6 per cent should be sufficient for renewed growth after a lag. Second, sterling's depreciation will enable UK firms to gain extra market share both at home and abroad. Third, the autumn statement looks as though it will be aimed at underpinning growth within the government's self-imposed financial constraint.

Inflationary pressures are "difficult to detect" now but even the London Business School — usually a staunch government supporter — is talking about 7 per cent inflation ahead on unchanged monetary policy settings. Underlying inflation will surely fall from September's 4 per cent to, say, 3 per cent by mid-1993 but a rough consensus for end-1993 is 3.5 per cent, possibly on a rising trend.

Economic models suggest the devaluation — assuming sterling remains at current levels — will boost UK inflation by 3 to 4 per cent. Instead of 3 per cent inflation in 1994 or 1995, the implication is 6 or 7 per cent.

However, the longest recession for 50 years has squeezed profit margins. This is an unrecognised potential source of inflation. As soon as demand revives, firms will think about widening margins.

The gilt market is focusing on the short term to the neglect of the long term. The current bull run has been running since April 1990. We doubt it will reach its third anniversary but there may be some life left in it yet.

DICK HOWARD
Julius Baer Investments

ABF profits expected to shrink

TODAY

DIFFICULT trading in milling and baking is expected to depress full-year profits at Associated British Foods, the Sunblest bread-to-Silver Spoon sugar group headed by Garry Weston.

Tim Potter at Smith New Court anticipates a decline in final pre-tax profits to £300 million, compared with £332.4 million, excluding any exceptional closure-related charges which might affect the headline figure. Market forecasts range from £290 million to £310 million.

Earnings are expected to slip to 44p (49p) a share, although an increased final dividend of 4.75p (4.5p) a share is predicted, which would give an improved total payout of 13.25p (13p).

Interim: Holmes Protection Grp (O), Jammy Inv Co, Mezzanine Capital & Inv Trst 2001, Sindell (William), The Black (Flood), Associated British Foods (2D), Stairless Metalcraft.

TOMORROW

Final pre-tax profits at TIP Europe, the trailer rental and leasing group, are forecast to rise to £1.2 million (£6 million), according to UBS Phillips & Drew.

Interim: German Smelter Co Inv Trst, Powerscreen Intl.

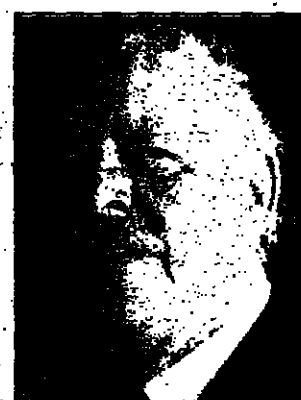


Sheehy: strength

Finals: China and Eastern Inv, Cooper (Frederick), Keystone Inv, Scottish Metropolitan Property, Southern National Trst, TP Europe. Economic statistics: UK official reserves (October).

WEDNESDAY

Lower third-quarter domestic mortgage charges and a continuing recovery at Eagle Star should help BAT Industries, the tobacco-to-insurance giant headed by Sir Patrick Sheehy, to report a near-50 per cent lift in nine-month profits. Nyren Scott-Malden at BZW forecasts pre-tax profits of £990 million (£657 million) despite a negative currency adjustment estimated at £34 million. Market forecasts range from £948 million to £1.03 billion. BZW expects third-quarter



Weston: problems

profits to rise 44 per cent to £349 million (£242 million), with forecasts ranging from £303 million to £380 million.

Strong sales growth should help J Sainsbury, the food retailer, to interim pre-tax profits of £385 million, against £327 million, according to Paul Smiddy at Kleinwort Benson. Market forecasts range from £385 million to £400 million. A dividend of 2.7p (2.4p) is predicted.

Interim: Anglo American Coal Corp, BAT Industries (C3), Sainsbury (J), Final: Financial Growth Trst, Economic statistics: Housing starts and completions (September).

THURSDAY

Fergus MacLeod at County

NatWest is looking for British Petroleum to report a 19 per cent decline in third-quarter net income to £105 million (£129 million) on a replacement cost basis, with market forecasts ranging from £100 million to £170 million. County has pencilled in a 58 per cent fall in third-quarter historic cost net income to £65 million (£156 million), with market forecasts between £65 million and £180 million.

Interim: Blackland Oil, British Petroleum Co (C3), Burtonwood Brewery, First Island Inv Co, Philips Electronics (C3), Westbury, Whitbread Inv Co (D).

Finals: Seabury, Fleming Japanese Inv Trst (D), Low (Wm) & Co, MMT Computing, Smart (J) & Co (Contract).

Economic statistics: details of employment, unemployment, earnings, prices and other indicators, new earnings survey 1992 part D; analyses by occupation, cyclical indicators for the UK economy (October - first estimate).

FRIDAY

Salomon Brothers expects Unilever to report an 11 per cent increase in third-quarter pre-tax profits to £581 million, giving nine-month profits of £1.48 billion (£1.39 billion). Interim: Age (C3), BDA Higgs, Unilever (C3), Final: Ashley Grp (2D), British Empire Secs & Gen Trst. Economic statistics: insolvency statistics (third quarter).

PHILIP PANGALOS

the reason why...



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Turkish Airlines is bringing new dimensions to the art of flying, by offering a unique perspective in service and comfort for those who wish to fly at a higher level.

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TURKISH AIRLINES

"We care more"

CHANGE ON WEEK		THE POUND	
US dollar	1.5632 (-0.0513)	German mark	2.4112 (-0.0590)
Exchange index	78.4 (-2.1)	Bank of England official close (4pm)	
STOCK MARKET			
FT 30 share	1963.8 (-17.9)	FT-SE 100	2658.3 (-11.4)
New York Dow Jones	3228.28 (+18.64)	Tokyo Nikkei Avg	16767.40 (-350.25)
SHORTS (under 5 years)			
100 Fund 04/1992	100%	6.01	6.25
100 Fund 05/1992	100%	6.22	6.15
100 Fund 06/1992	100%	6.45	6.30
100 Fund 07/1992	100%	6.67	6.52
100 Fund 08/1992	100%	6.89	6.74
100 Fund 09/1992	100%	7.11	6.96
100 Fund 10/1992	100%	7.33	7.18
100 Fund 11/1992	100%	7.55	7.40
100 Fund 12/1992	100%	7.77	7.62
100 Fund 01/1993	100%	7.99	7.84
100 Fund 02/1993	100%	8.21	8.06
100 Fund 03/1993	100%	8.43	8.28
100 Fund 04/1993	100%	8.65	8.50
100 Fund 05/1993	100%	8.87	8.72
100 Fund 06/1993	100%	9.09	8.94
100 Fund 07/1993	100%	9.31	9.16
100 Fund 08/1993	100%	9.53	9.38
100 Fund 09/1993	100%	9.75	9.60
100 Fund 10/1993	100%	9.97	9.82
100 Fund 11/1993	100%	10.19	10.04
100 Fund 12/1993	100%	10.41	10.26
100 Fund 01/1994	100%	10.63	10.48
100 Fund 02/1994	100%	10.85	10.70
100 Fund 03/1994	100%	11.07	10.92
100 Fund 04/1994	100%	11.29	11.14
100 Fund 05/1994	100%	11.51	11.36
100 Fund 06/1994	100%	11.73	11.58
100 Fund 07/1994	100%	11.95	11.80
100 Fund 08/1994	100%	12.17	12.02
100 Fund 09/1994	100%	12.39	12.24
100 Fund 10/1994	100%	12.61	12.46
100 Fund 11/1994	100%	12.83	12.68
100 Fund 12/1994	100%	13.05	12.90
100 Fund 01/1995	100%	13.27	13.12
100 Fund 02/1995	100%	13.49	13.34
100 Fund 03/1995	100%	13.71	13.56
100 Fund 04/1995	100%	13.93	13.78
100 Fund 05/1995	100%	14.15	14.00
100 Fund 06/1995	100%	14.37	14.22
100 Fund 07/1995	100%	14.59	14.44
100 Fund 08/1995	100%	14.81	14.66
100 Fund 09/1995	100%	15.03	14.88
100 Fund 10/1995	100%	15.25	15.10
100 Fund 11/1995	100%	15.47	15.32
100 Fund 12/1995	100%	15.69	15.54
100 Fund 01/1996	100%	15.91	15.76
100 Fund 02/1996	100%	16.13	15.98
100 Fund 03/1996	100%	16.35	16.20
100 Fund 04/1996	100%	16.57	16.42
100 Fund 05/1996	100%	16.79	16.64
100 Fund 06/1996	100%	17.01	16.86
100 Fund 07/1996	100%	17.23	17.08
100 Fund 08/1996	100%	17.45	17.30
100 Fund 09/1996	100%	17.67	17.52
100 Fund 10/1996	100%	17.89	17.74
100 Fund 11/1996	100%	18.11	17.96
100 Fund 12/1996	100%	18.33	18.18
100 Fund 01/1997	100%	18.55	18.40
100 Fund 02/1997	100%	18.77	18.62
100 Fund 03/1997	100%	18.99	18.84
100 Fund 04/1997	100%	19.21	19.06
100 Fund 05/1997	100%	19.43	19.28
100 Fund 06/1997	100%	19.65	19.50
100 Fund 07/1997	100%	19.87	19.72
100 Fund 08/1997	100%	20.09	19.94
100 Fund 09/1997	100%	20.31	20.16
100 Fund 10/1997	100%	20.53	20.38
100 Fund 11/1997	100%	20.75	20.60
100 Fund 12/1997	100%	20.97	20.82
100 Fund 01/1998	100%	21.19	21.04
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100 Fund 12/2009	100%	52.65	52.50
100 Fund 01/2010	100%	52.87	52.72
100 Fund 02/2010	100%	53.09	52.94
100 Fund 03/2010	100%	53.31	53.16
100 Fund 04/2010	100%	53.53	53.38
100 Fund 05/2010	100%	53.75	53.60
100 Fund 06/2010	100%	53.97	53.82
100 Fund 07/2010	100%	54.19	54.04
100 Fund 08/2010	100%	54.41	54.26
100 Fund 09/2010	100%	54.63	54.48
100 Fund 10/2010	100%	54.85	54.70
100 Fund 11/2010	100%	55.07	54.92
100 Fund 12/2010	100%	55.29	55.14
100 Fund 01/2011	100%	55.51	55.36
100 Fund 02/2011	100%	55.73	55.58
100 Fund 03/2011	100%	55.95	55.80
100 Fund 04/2011	100%	56.17	56.02
100 Fund 05/2011	100%	56.39	56.24
100 Fund 06/2011	100%	56.61	56.46
100 Fund 07/2011	100%	56.83	56.68
100 Fund 08/2011	100%	57.05	56.90
100 Fund 09/2011	100%	57.27	57.12
100 Fund 10/2011	100%	57.49	57.34
100 Fund 11/2011	100%	57.71	57.56
100 Fund 12/2011	100%	57.93	57.78
100 Fund 01/2012			

EC unlikely to bring in legislation on worker consultation

By Philip Bassett
Industrial Editor

THE European Commission looks unlikely to press ahead with Europe-wide legislation requiring companies to set up new methods, including European-style works councils, of consulting their employees.

Instead, it looks likely to rely on the voluntary development of agreements between companies and trade unions on new forms of consultation.

Such a move away from a firmly legislative approach would be warmly welcomed by the government. Ministers believe consultation methods imposed by Brussels would be inappropriate, for most firms would be against the principle of subsidiarity now being more heavily promoted in the

The EC is moderating its centrist approach to employment legislation

wake of the EC's difficulties over the Maastricht treaty and would run counter to many of the government's changes to the UK labour market.

Gillian Shephard, the employment secretary, says British companies should be allowed to set up their own methods of informing and consulting employees. The significant switch away from a legislative to a voluntarist approach was signalled last week by a senior official of the Euro-

pean Commission in a speech to the annual conference of the Institute of Personnel Management in Harrogate.

Dr Hermanus van Zonneveld, head of working conditions and labour law division of the commission's employment directorate, said no progress had been made on information and consultation since last December. He hinted Britain might block attempts to introduce new laws.

A second option would depend on the Maastricht treaty being adopted, and a new directive on the issue brought in among the 11 EC countries, excluding Britain, who signed the treaty's social chapter. But Dr van Zonneveld suggested there was a third option, an agreement between the two sides of industry, which he described as now the "best possibility" and one of which he was "strongly in favour".

Pointing out that in at least 20 Europe-wide firms information and consultation procedures in line with those originally proposed by the EC had already been adopted, Dr van Zonneveld said: "I have the feeling a settlement between the two sides of industry can better take into account the many specific situations of companies with quite often complex structures than legislation from EC civil servants."

But his suggestion might still leave UK employees outside the framework of moves across Europe, since it is rooted within the social protocol of Maastricht, which Britain refused to sign.

Insisting it was "high time" progress should be made on the issue, he praised developments among both management and unions on information and consultation. But he gave warning that if after more than 20 years European discussion on the issue no agreement could be reached, the commission and council of ministers would "have to take their responsibility" — indicating the option of legislation, though lessened, has not totally disappeared.



Gunslingers: Lord Hanson might avoid confrontation with Greg Hutchings this time

RHM drama rivets the City

By Philip Pangalos

ATTENTION in the Square Mile will continue to focus on Lord Hanson, after Greg Hutchings, head of the fast-growing Tomkins conglomerate, turned on his mentor by launching a rival bid for Ranks Hovis McDougall.

Tomkins surprised the market with last Thursday's agreed £925 million takeover bid for the foods group. Mr Hutchings had been stalking RHM for some time, but his negotiations were interrupted last month by Hanson's £780

million hostile bid. The market's response to Mr Hutchings' bid was muted; Tomkins shares were marked down as some questioned the wisdom of the proposed bid by a company seen as having an engineering bias.

Tomkins, with businesses spanning handbags, lawnmowers, bicycles and fluid control systems, accompanied its offer with a £653 million, one-for-two rights issue, at 200p a share.

Tomkins' cash and share bid was worth 251p at the end of last week, with a 260p cash alternative, compared with Hanson's opening bid of 220p a share. Tomkins shares finished last week at 212p, while RHM stood at 275p and Hanson at 228p.

The consensus in the City is that Lord Hanson is likely to walk away. Tomkins has 28 days to produce a formal offer document, while RHM is due to produce a formal defence against Hanson's offer by next Friday.

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

NatWest forecasts 3.25m unemployed

ANOTHER 400,000 people are forecast to lose their jobs over the next 15 months before the unemployment rate peaks, while base rates should fall to 7 per cent before Christmas, according to David Kern, chief economist and head of market intelligence at National Westminster Bank. Jobless numbers are expected to exceed 3 million early next year and reach a peak of about 3.25 million towards the end of 1993, says Mr Kern in the November issue of the bank's *Economic and Financial Outlook*.

Mr Kern believes the South East will bear the brunt of the increase, with 1.08 million out of work by the end of next year. He expects underlying retail price inflation, excluding mortgages, to fall below 3.5 per cent over the next six-to-nine months, with headline inflation likely to fall below 1.5 per cent. But sterling's devaluation is forecast to push headline inflation back to 4 per cent in the fourth quarter of 1993.

TECs budget backed

CUTTING budgets for the 104 local Training and Enterprise Councils (TECs) would be "very damaging", according to 22 per cent of managers questioned in the Industrial Society's quarterly *Training Trends* survey. More than half the 528 firms surveyed expect to cut management layers over the next couple of years. (*Training Trends* No 6. The Industrial Society, Robert Hyde House, 48 Bryanston Square, London W1H 7LN. Tel: 071-262 2401.)

Wage councils debated

EMPLOYERS are divided over the proposed government abolition of wages councils. According to the November report from Incomes Data Services, the employment researcher, published today, larger firms argue that the wages councils restrict their ability to develop their own wage policies. However, other employers believe wages councils prevent the exploitation of employees. (IDS, 193 St John Street, London EC1V 4LS. Tel: 071-250 3434.)

Brittan warns on rates

SIR Leon Brittan, the EC vice-president and competition commissioner, told financiers in Glasgow that to have the pound floating outside the exchange-rate mechanism would mean uncertainty and see investors demand a premium for holding sterling. That would have to be paid for by raising interest rates, he added. Sir Leon reaffirmed his proposal for a more flexible sterling/ERM link and stressed the importance of monetary union.



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A BREATH OF FRESH AIR

COMMENT

Clinton tax plans threaten shares

British securities markets have yet to take a clear view on the Bush versus Clinton battle, which is, in any case, now far too close to call. In theory, at least, a Clinton victory should initially prove negative for London shares. The governor has extraordinary plans for swinging taxation of foreign companies operating in America. If they come even half way to fruition — over the battered and bleeding bodies of assorted ambassadors and foreign office officials — British companies will be among the worst affected. Since these plans were first announced in the Spring, there has been a little ritual condemnation and a great deal of ostrich-like tendency to look the other way. The bad dream may be about to become reality.

There are two sides to this, both of them negative from a British standpoint. If Clinton succeeds with his proposal, British companies will be the largest contributors towards about \$45 billion of additional tax revenue to be raised between 1993 and 1996. Some heavy duty members of Britain's corporate establishment, which have sizeable American operations, will be affected. Lord Hanson's legendary skill in managing his group's tax affairs will be tried to the limit. Sir Denis Henderson, of ICI, and Sir Allen Sheppard, of GrandMet, will be similarly exercised. However, if Clinton's plans, conveniently painless for the voters he happens to be wooing right now, fail either through sheer practical difficulty, congressional opposition or because they become bogged in long-running legal disputes over constitutionality, his budgetary plans will have a sizeable hole blown in them, with no alternative easy to hand.

Further straying from the path of fiscal rectitude may not hurt corporate profits in the short run but will be bad for longer-term sentiment towards US equity markets and will also have negative influence on the mighty greenback. There are good reasons, therefore, on general grounds, for some anxiety about a Clinton victory.

Other British interests will be more specifically affected by the election outcome. British Airways' plan to take a stake in USAir is a classic of unfortunate timing. The complex and emotive issue of foreign investment in hitherto protected American industries such as transportation and the media ideally needs quiet, unhurried consideration by American regulators and their political masters. Instead, Governor Clinton jumped on the protectionist bandwagon and threatened to block BA's proposals last week, though this weekend he was giving signs of moderating his line. Whether this all proves to be a simple and cynical piece of electioneering may never be known. But Clinton's protectionist handling of the issue contrasts sharply with that of the president and is yet another election-related matter for British concern among foreign companies doing business in America.

Moving forward

Perhaps the most significant factor though for foreign investors in America is recovery. For the time being, the fact that the recovery is finally beginning to appear will be the dominating influence on investment decisions rather than whether or not there has been a change of curtains in the White House. As in Britain, confidence, or the lack of it, has been holding back the investment plans of corporate America. Thanks to the low interest rates engineered by the Federal Reserve, capital investment should be moving and will do so once the pre-election paralysis in corporate decision-taking is over. Bush or Clinton, America is moving forward. Whether this is to be as a relative free-trader under Bush or as a protectionist under Clinton may in the long run be the most important question of all.

The outlook for policies that will bring growth and prosperity is better than it has been for the past 15 years, says Anatole Kaletsky

With one bound we are free, I wrote on the night of the pound's devaluation, predicting that an economic recovery would begin almost immediately, with interest rates falling to 7 per cent by the end of the year. The Treasury and cabinet presented the devaluation as a disaster. Most economic commentators predicted a rise in interest rates to "defend" sterling and a collapse in financial confidence that would dash recovery hopes.

Well, it has taken more than one bound. It has taken three policy U-turns. But judging by last Thursday's Mansion House speech, the Treasury mandarins and cabinet wreckers have been defeated and reason has prevailed. The Mansion House speech appeared to be an unconditional surrender by the Treasury ideologues who have run the British economy for the past decade. Not only did Norman Lamont promise the growth that went unmentioned in his speeches to the Conservative party and the Treasury committee two weeks ago. He also specifically repudiated the two fundamental tenets of monetarist orthodoxy imposed on the Treasury from 1979 onwards by Nigel Lawson, Sir Keith Joseph and Sir Terry Burns: that the sole function of macroeconomic policy is to combat inflation; and that fiscal and incomes policies are useless in controlling inflation or managing demand.

As a result, Britain could now enjoy sensible economic management for the first time in many years; some would say, for the first time in 15 years, since the supply-side achievements of the Thatcher era were undermined by incompetent demand management. That goes far to explain the bitterly disappointing results of the Thatcher revolution, in terms of such key macroeconomic indicators as growth, unemployment, inflation and the balance of payments. Now that self-destructive policies have ended, what of the future?

Most commentators who passionately supported the deflationary policies of the past three years have suddenly decided that these have led Britain to the brink of a thirty-style depression. My view has always been less cataclysmic. Even before the devaluation, I thought that Britain had started on a slow economic convalescence by the early summer. The trouble was that excessively high interest rates, made even more daunting by John Major's dreams about zero inflation, were making it difficult for convalescence to turn into proper recovery. Now Britain is outside the

ERM, interest rates are set to fall to levels compatible with low inflation. The supply-side achievements of the 1980s have been only partly destroyed by the recession. The prospects for the British economy therefore seem better today than they have been for years.

Why, then, the near-universal gloom, not only in the media and the economics profession, but among businessmen and consumers? Pervasive gloom invariably precedes the end of recession, just as euphoria marks the top of a boom. As gloom turns to despair, falling interest rates and the automatic stabilisers built into modern tax and public spending systems, under the influence of Keynesian economics, ensure that the recession does not go on forever.

There seems to be only one plausible reason to fear that this pattern of cyclical recovery will be broken this time. Perhaps this is not a normal cyclical recession but a one-in-a-lifetime "debt deflation", like the great depression that wrecked the world economy from 1929 to 1936. Fears of such prolonged depression seem to have been overcome. Many economic indicators have turned

quite favourable since the early summer. As the charts show, retail sales, car registrations and the combined cyclical indicators compiled by the Central Statistical Office all clearly turned in the spring. Unemployment, too, showed a strongly improving trend through the summer, although there has been a deterioration in the past few months. The main problem for the economy, which also accounts for the recent jump in unemployment, has been the weakness of manufacturing and the housing market, neither of which have sustained signs of improvement early in the year.

These are precisely the sectors that should benefit most from the devaluation of sterling and the sharp cut in interest rates. Of course, recent surveys of confidence suggest otherwise. They show businesses and consumers planning to retrench, rather than spend, in the months ahead. But given the prophecies of Armageddon spread by the media and the government since September 16, a temporary collapse in confidence should come as no surprise. Consumers have

not yet even enjoyed the benefits of the last two cuts in mortgage rates. Only after interest rates are cut sharply again, as they almost certainly will be in the Autumn Statement, will it be possible to make a proper assessment of the psychological impact of Black Wednesday — which should be called White Wednesday, now the Mansion House speech has formally acknowledged the policy freedom Britain won that day.

This leads to the second and more important reason for rejecting the prophecies of never-ending depression. Economic policies are changing spectacularly, not only in Britain but around the world. Interest rates are falling all over Europe. In Germany, the Bundesbank has finally realised that its high interest rates are not only causing a Europe-wide recession but also an explosion in government deficits and public-sector debt. In Japan, the government has embarked on one of the biggest programmes of Keynesian stimulus ever. In America, too, expansionary policies are likely to be intensified, especially if Bill Clinton wins. Governments are trying to "kick start" economic expansion, to use Mr

Lamont's favourite expression. But did not Keynes himself say that in a debt deflation, stimulative policies could be like "putting on a piece of string"? In the 1990s, the piece of string analogy appears invalid, for at least two reasons. First, it applies only to monetary policy, whereas fiscal policy is now also highly stimulative, at least in Japan, Britain and Germany. Second, and more importantly, it assumes that the world is actually suffering from debt deflation, which can be translated as a pervasive fear of taking on debt, even at very low interest rates. This view is fashionable, but it is implausible, especially for Britain.

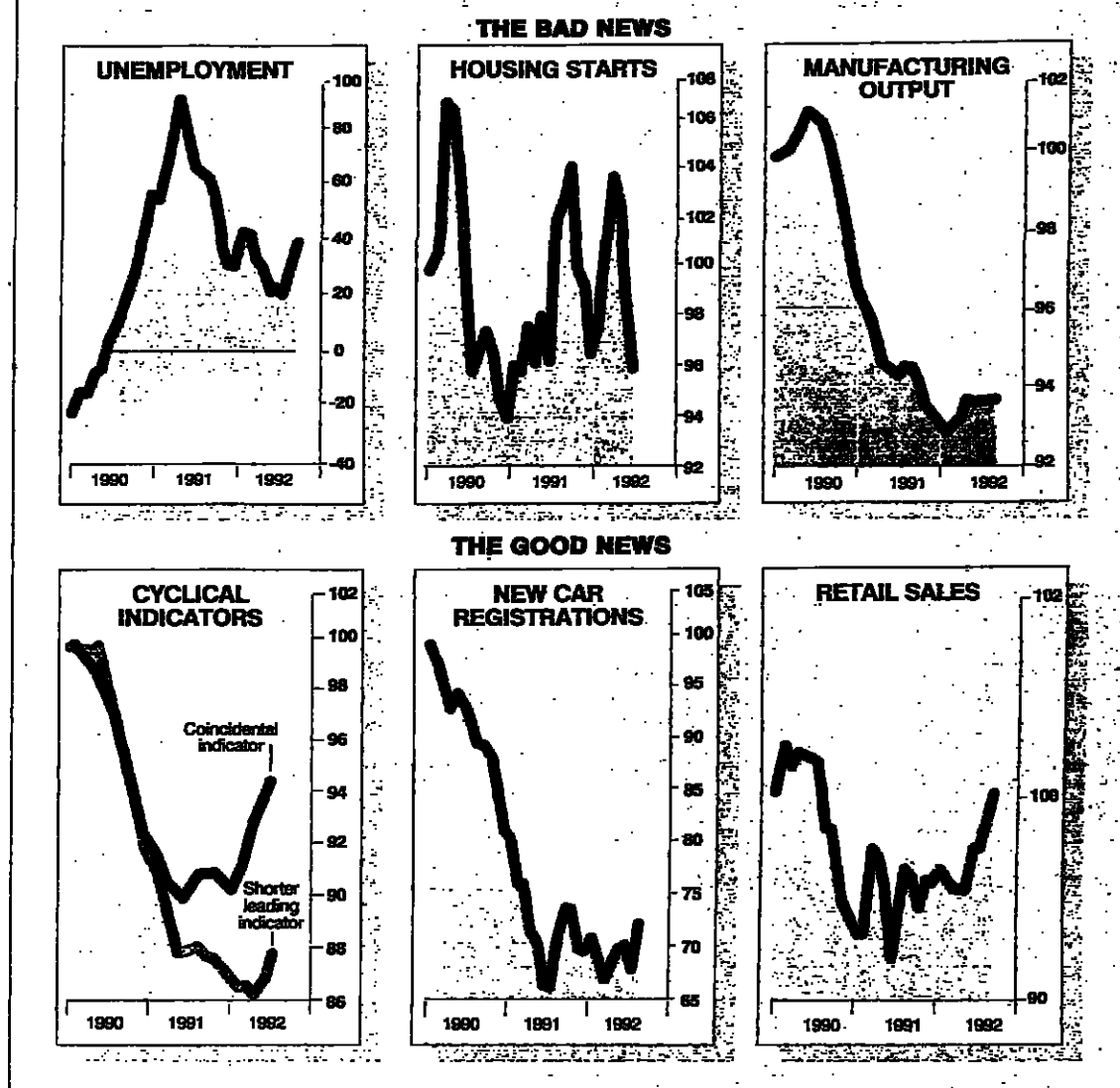
In Britain, debt deflation might have been a danger until September 16, although it was unclear how an economy in which the cost of borrowing was more than 10 per cent could be described as afraid of taking on debt, even at low interest rates.

After White Wednesday, this issue should be empirically tested. If interest rates fall to 6 per cent in the next month or so, as the markets now expect, I suspect that British businesses, householders and consumers will start to borrow, though not with the reckless abandon of the late 1980s.

Borrowing, spending and industrial investment will be encouraged not only by lower interest rates themselves, but also by two psychological consequences of the U-turn in government policy. First, the government's new-found commitment to growth and prosperity may offer the public some reassurance against the fear of unemployment. Second, the policy U-turn and departure from the ERM should reassure potential borrowers that inflation will not be reduced to zero and asset prices will not go on falling forever.

Crucially, this second source of comfort does not depend on faith in the government's ability to fulfil its promises. Even if people dismiss the promises of recovery and faster growth as pie in the sky, they are likely to be more sanguine about the prospects of accelerating inflation. In my view, and that of most economic forecasters (with whom, for once, I agree) these prospects are unlikely to be realised. Inflation will probably remain subdued at 3 to 5 per cent for much of the rest of the decade. But fewer people in Britain are likely to believe this now than two months ago. ERM membership was sold to the public as Britain's last bulwark against inflation. It was sold on a false prospectus, since inflation was set to come down, with or without a fixed exchange rate. But ERM membership and low inflation were closely linked in the public mind. Only a week before White Wednesday, the Chancellor proclaimed that "withdrawal from the ERM would lead to 'raging inflation'". After statements like these, will Britons continue to think that house prices will never again rise fast enough to justify borrowing at an interest rate of 6 or 7 per cent?

MIXED FORTUNES FOR BRITAIN'S ECONOMY



LETTERS

Constant EC legislation wastes time for business

From Mr Michael Ivens

Sir, There can be a clash between subsidiarity and a single market, as your Comment and Peter Sutherland, the former European Commission Commissioner, point out (October 30), but the discussion needs to be taken further than that.

The present subsidiarity of France, Spain and Belgium,

for example, in not accepting the qualifications of British surveys is damaging to the single market. But European Community passions for such symmetry as the size of cement bags and bananas is damaging both competition and subsidiarity.

The anguish of business at a constant drip of non-subsidiarity legislation at present leads to a constant and

irritating waste of time by organisations trying to oppose them. Some principles need to be enunciated to cut such legislation off at source.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL IVENS,
Director,
Aims of Industry,
The free enterprise
organisation,
40 Doughty Street, WC1.

Gilt excluded

From Mr Simon D. Baggott

Sir, I see that gilts are to be excluded from the Taurus system. I am sure that we are all relieved that the government does not propose to dematerialise.

Yours faithfully,
SIMON D. BAGGOTT,
112 Chorley Road,
Sheffield,
South Yorkshire.

Joint effort

From Mr Robert A.M. Whitaker

Sir, On Wednesday the 21st, the October Club raised £120,000 net for the Children's Liver Disease Foundation. Three hundred and

ninety friends contributed totally to a most successful evening at The Savoy.

I should like to record through your columns how personally embarrassed I am by the publicity given to me in Carol Leonard's column,

which far overshadowed the credit which should have gone to each and every one of them — we are a club of people which raises money for charity, not a personal publicity machine for one individual.

May I through your col-

umns apologise to each of those 390 dinner companions.

Yours faithfully,
R.A.M. WHITAKER,
The October Club,
32 St Mary at Hill, EC3.

THE TIMES CITY DIARY

Teddy to Russian bear market

A WEEK after arriving in London from the Urals, and being photographed by *The Times*, Katya Likhodei, 35, seems to have hit on teddy bears as her first big business idea. Mrs Likhodei was invited to the UK by the Institute of Chartered Accountants after she wrote a poignant letter to *The Times* begging for advice on how to set up a business. In the last week, she has visited a supermarket, a saddlery, a DIY store and a baby clothes shop in search of goods to sell back home. But the teddy bears she found in a factory in Wales appealed most. While the cuddly creatures have not yet been introduced to the former Soviet Union, Winnie the Pooh has been translated, and Mrs Likhodei believes they would have novelty value in the land of puppets and dolls. Paul Courtenay of the institute, says Mrs Likhodei now has a collection of bears for her three daughters, and the first teddy bear shop in the Urals seems a real possibility.

Going Global

FRESH into the top seat at Hill Samuel Investment Management, Richard Bernays, previously a vice-chairman at Mercury Asset Management, has humbly lost one of his star managers. Alan Greenhorn and his five-strong team are moving to State Street Global Advisers, the Boston fund manager. SSGA recently took on David Miller, former vice-chairman of Robert Fleming Securities, to run its London fund arm. Interest-



ingly, Miller also had talks with Hill Samuel about the position Bernays now occupies before moving to SSGA. Greenhorn is said to be one of the few top-notch "quant" fund managers in London, quantitative fund management being the sensitive field in which Hill Samuel and SSGA compete most fiercely against one other.

Gone shopping

WHILE the Chancellor gears up for his Autumn Statement on November 12, Kristin Bradbury, computer consultant, is planning a different milestone for the economy on November 11, which he has declared national "Confidence Day". Bradbury has a theory that seems to run along the lines of the one that says if everyone in China jumped at the same time, the world would move off its axis. He maintains that if everyone, from company chairmen to housewives, had the confidence on

November 11 to buy something they have been postponing buying, it could jolt the recession to a halt. Bradbury says he will himself be buying £100 of fruit trees for his garden and suggests the Chancellor should splash out, too. "I think he should buy a new stereo system so that he can hear both sides of the debate for once," says Bradbury.

Fast future

TOP Greenwell Montagu investment management duo Brian Morley and Michael Pallett, and their team, which includes Peter Witter, had, it emerges, no less than six firm job offers within 24 hours of being left out in the cold two weeks ago by Greenwell Montagu. Greenwell is soon to be appended to James Capel Investment Management as part of Hongkong & Shanghai's takeover of Midland — the client list of Morley and Pallett's client list did not fit with Capel's. Happily, among the first callers was Michael Kerr-Dineen at Credit Lyonnais, the most prolific recruiter in the City these days, and within three days the pair were back in action at L&C Investment Management. Morley now forms part of the Kerr-Dineen fan club, rumoured to have turned down higher offers — three times higher in Morley's case — to work for Credit Lyonnais. "I can't comment on that but it's been a great move," says Morley happily.

Art dealers

THE days of grim entrance halls and gloomy boardrooms may be numbered. Emma Russell and Rachel Dickson

have launched a consultancy to advise firms on works of art and are proving the City in search of prey. "We'd like to go in and spruce up their image," says Emma, 32, who recently decked out the offices of Baker & McKenzie, the law firm, with works by young artists. "At the moment, a lot of companies are moving, and this provides a catalyst." With fees for the service ranging from £3,500 to £5,000 for a £50,000 art collection, many firms may decide they like their boardrooms the way they are. Coopers & Lybrand may prove the exception. Emma's husband, Mark, works in the corporate finance department.

High drinks

NOT afraid of being called a swot, Robert Owen, 27, will today start a new job on Shroders' Japanese equity desk flouting a snap of himself 7,000 metres up Mount Aconcagua in Argentina reading a Shroders equity report. Owen, ex-Wako Securities, has just returned from the climb, but swears the photo was taken solely because of Shroders' sponsorship and not to impress his seniors. Raising money for CARE, to help Somali famine victims, Owen lugged with him various products from sponsors to photograph them on the slopes for advertising ends. They included a Legal & General umbrella, an estate agent's board, a can of hairspray and a tin of Guinness. He is hoping to persuade Guinness to part with vast sums to use his rugged shots in its next advertising campaign.

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FRONTLINE

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Bradford & Bingley to let 400 properties awaiting sale

Building society rents out repossessed homes

By LINDSAY COOK
MONEY EDITOR

A LEADING building society is to rent out up to 400 of its repossessed properties over the next year.

Moves by the Bradford & Bingley to put repossessed homes back into the rental market on a substantial scale are likely to be followed by other mortgage lenders. Between them they have about 68,000 repossessed properties that they have been unable to sell.

The first batch of homes has already been put in the hands of managing agents and Bradford & Bingley hopes they will be on the market in the next 10 days. Other societies have let property on an

□ Mortgage lenders are losing heavily on 68,000 repossessed properties that they cannot sell. Now they are devising fresh solutions to the problem

hoc basis but this is the first formal scheme to put such properties into the rental sector at commercial rents. Bradford & Bingley has already worked with housing associations to use repossessed homes for letting at social rents.

Bradford & Bingley last autumn launched a scheme offering fixed-rate mortgages at 6.99 per cent for buyers of its repossessed properties but the number of properties in possession remains static at

about 2,000 despite hundreds being sold. As mortgage rates fall, this special offer seems less attractive.

The properties will be let on assured shorthold tenancies of six, nine or 12 months, said Andrew Thompson, executive in charge of lettings at the seventh largest society.

The scheme has been approved by the Building Societies Commission. The society is renting out the properties as the mortgagee in possession

and the owners will still be the borrowers. The society has a duty of care to those borrowers to ensure that the tenants do not damage the properties. Those concerned are being notified of the plans and their comments and objections will be taken into account when deciding which properties to put forward. It has the powers to take this action under the standard mortgage deed, said Mr Thompson.

Tenants are being sought at market rents for the first properties, that require only a limited amount of cleaning up, in Essex. "The first should be let in the next 10 to 14 days," said Mr Thompson. By renting out homes the society hopes to minimise any deterioration that occurs when they are left empty and to produce some income to mitigate the debt until they can be sold.

As part of its research into the rental market, Bradford & Bingley talked to some Belgian lenders that rented out properties after the collapse of its housing market in 1974. Some of the houses were still on the lenders' books more than 15 years later.

Societies have a fiduciary duty in this country to get the best price for repossessed properties as soon as they can. By renting out for up to a year, the Bradford & Bingley hopes to get a better price than it would if it made a distressed sale after a property had been empty over the winter.

Sir George Young, housing minister, has been talking to building societies and institutional investors to try to persuade them to enter the domestic rental market. Most societies see no gain to be had from buying properties for rent but others may decide to rent out properties in possession.

At the beginning of October the National & Provincial and Bristol & West building societies announced that they were launching a scheme to rent 200 repossessed properties to the homeless at social rents through a subsidiary company. The properties will be bought from the borrowers at an independent valuation and rented for up to four years.



Sir George: rental talks

Italy spent \$24bn defending lira before leaving ERM

By WOLFGANG MÜNCHAU, EUROPEAN BUSINESS CORRESPONDENT

ITALY spent \$24 billion in the futile defence of the lira during the recent turmoil in Europe's exchange-rate mechanism, according to figures from the Bank of Italy.

In its semi-annual report, Italy's central bank urged its government to put behind it the tumultuous events in international currency markets, which in September led to the eviction of the lira from the ERM, and to implement policies that would allow the currency to return. In particular, the bank encouraged the government under Giuliano Amato, the prime minister, to press ahead with an austerity programme, designed to cut the budget deficit from its present level of about 10.5 per cent of gross national product.

In the report, the Bank of Italy urged the Italian government to "win back the confidence of savers and international markets". To achieve this, "it makes it even more urgent and necessary to follow rigorous policies on incomes and the public deficit."

The Italian parliament last week agreed on a wide-ranging law, allowing the government to carry out controversial structural reforms of the health service, pensions and local government. This follows a series of other incisive measures adopted recently and designed to stabilise the economy, including the abolition of the *scala mobile* system of automatic wage indexation.

Italian politicians and central bankers have publicly come out in favour of a speedy return of the lira into the ERM, as soon as market conditions would allow, despite the humiliating manner in which it was ejected on Black Wednesday. After the futile 7 per cent devaluation of

the lira before September 17, the Italian currency lost close to 20 per cent in its value against the mark, trading at one stage close to L1000 against the mark. Recently, the Italian currency has stabilised again to around L850. One of the signs of a return to normality was the decision last Monday by the Bank of Italy to cut the discount rate by one percentage point to 14 per cent.

On financial markets there is scepticism about an imminent prospect of the lira's return to the ERM. It is believed that for now Germany and France are unlikely to agree to the return of a much-devalued lira for competitive reasons. Warren Oliver, European economist at SG Warburg, the merchant bank, said the "stability over the last two weeks is not going to reassure the markets".

Bush will not prejudge BA deal

By PHILIP PANGALOS

PRESIDENT George Bush has indicated that he will not prejudge British Airways' proposed \$750 million investment in USAir before the matter was reviewed by the transportation department.

Last Wednesday, Bill Clinton, the Democratic candidate, said that, should he defeat President Bush in tomorrow's vote, he would oppose the airline deal, which would give BA a stake in loss-making USAir but without giving American airlines more access to UK markets.

Under the proposed agreement, USAir would link some of its flights to BA's schedule to

help increase passengers on BA's transatlantic flights. American Airlines, Delta Air Lines and United Airlines have opposed the agreement, saying it would put them at a disadvantage.

President Bush, speaking on satellite television, said: "It's in the transportation department right now, and I think everyone would agree that at some point politics have to be aside and you have to let the process work."

"Our secretary of transportation, Andy Card, is holding meetings right now with the various parties. And he'll make a recommendation to

me, and then the buck stops there. But to prejudge it or to start it before that hearing process goes forward, I think is inappropriate."

Over the weekend, Mr Clinton appeared to be moderating his earlier tough line. He wanted to save USAir and save American jobs, but only if the deal was fair to all Americans and did not give away trade advantages without anything in return.

He pledged to open negotiations on access to British markets on November 9, if he is elected president.

Comment, page 38



Kwik progress: independent research shows that Kwik Save, where Graeme Seabrook (above) is chief executive, has become Britain's third most popular food retailer in volume terms, behind J Sainsbury and Tesco. Research suggests that the volume of food sold by Kwik Save, which has 780 stores in England and Wales, has grown steadily as budget-conscious shoppers seek

better value for money during the recession. September figures give Kwik Save a 10.7 per cent share in market volume terms, with J Sainsbury and Tesco enjoying an average of 16.9 per cent of the market. Kwik Save has seen its volume market share rise from 7.1 per cent 20 months ago to overtake that of Asda, Argill and Gateway. These three food retailers have seen

their average market volume decline to 8.7 per cent, with Gateway thought to have suffered the most. Kwik Save volume sales are up 50 per cent on January last year and 16 per cent ahead of those registered at the start of this year. "We are seeing a change in values between the eighties and the nineties as people wake up to value for money," said a Kwik Save spokesman.

UK exporters 'missing their chance'

By PATRICIA TEHAN

BRITISH companies are missing out on export business by failing to take the chance offered by a devalued pound to cut prices overseas. Ian Campbell, director general of the Institute of Export, said: "On the evidence I have seen to date, companies are not seizing the opportunity." He felt smaller companies tended to have a more positive approach.

Last week, the Confederation of British Industry said export prospects had improved after sterling's withdrawal from the exchange-rate mechanism. But Mr Campbell said: "Exporters seem to be sitting back and taking the extra profit."

He felt companies should be able to set their overseas prices 15 to 20 per cent lower than they were before the pound left the ERM. "If we are competing against those pricing in dollars, including the Japanese and the Pacific Rim countries, we have a competitive edge." There were also opportunities in most European countries, he added.

A 10 per cent increase in exports would increase the UK's share of world trade by 1 per cent, Mr Campbell said. That "would eliminate our current balance of payments deficit".

John Cox, director general of the Chemical Industries Association, supported the CBI's view that where trade is beginning to recover, it is export-led. About half of the UK chemical industry's output is exported. Mr Cox said that

if companies increased exports, they could improve profitability. "Profitability is a key concern if we are to fund research programmes", he pointed out.

In contrast to the Institute of Export's view, the latest quarterly business activity survey by the Engineering Employers' London Association indicates that companies are working hard to win market share abroad, often at the expense of profit.

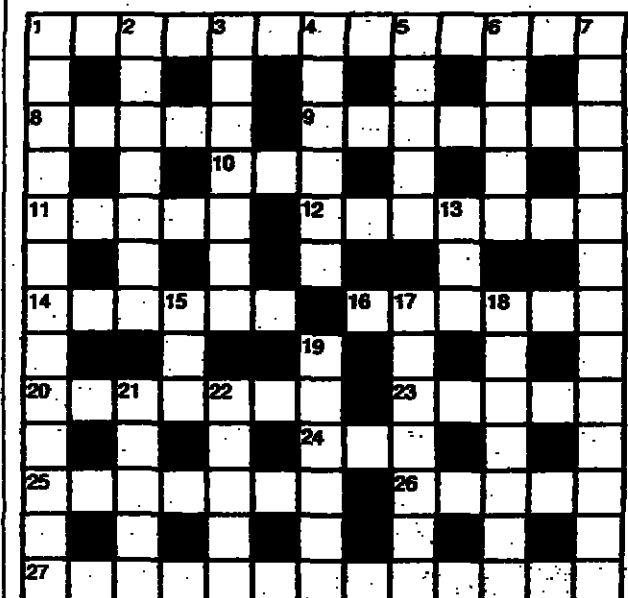
Mr Campbell said benefits had been noted in consumer goods and in industries with short-term ordering programmes such as motor accessories, electrical and electronic goods and industrial components.

Terence Libby, managing director of Morrislex, a tools supplier based in Rugby, said the fall in the pound's value had enabled his firm to increase profits on sales to continental Europe, where its prices had always been competitive. In the year ending yesterday, 40 per cent of the firm's £2.3 million turnover came from exports.

Mr Libby said Morrislex had had difficulty being competitive where prices were dollar-denominated. After devaluation, it would be able to drop its prices in Latin America and South East Asia.

GEC, the defence and electronics group, has also benefited from devaluation. David Newlands, group finance director, said: "In many markets, we are competing with major continental and US

CONCISE CROSSWORD NO 2934



ACROSS
1 Furious pack attack (7,9)
8 Forward (5)
9 Unmasking (7)
10 Large rodent (3)
11 Sweet corn (5)
12 Hunting cry (7)
14 Abolition (5-9)
16 City fringe (9)
20 Opening span (7)
23 Move slowly (5)
24 Not either (3)
25 Lethargy (7)
26 Striped African ruminant (5)
27 Disrepute (13)

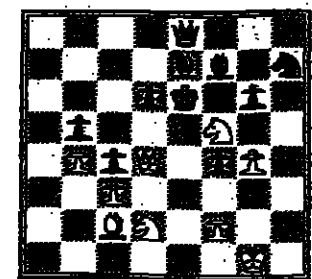
DOWN
1 Breaking into pieces (13)
2 Wearing away (7)
3 Entrance (7)
4 Segregated area (6)
5 Push back (5)
6 Unpleasant (5)
7 member (3)
13 Jo Grimond party member (3)
15 Digust cry (3)
17 Open out (7)
18 Ignorant (7)
19 Energetic type (6)
21 Fissure (5)
22 Midst (5)

SOLUTIONS TO NO 2933

ACROSS: 1 Port Said 5 Claf 9 Favours 10 Debut 11 Crab 12 Extinct 14 Rosary 16 Turn on 19 Drastic 21 Fate 24 Elder 25 Observe 28 Yard 27 Playbook
DOWN: 1 Puff 2 River 5 Shumber 4 In imp 6 Lethargy 7 Fighting 8 Adit 13 Drudgery 15 Slander 17 Unlucky 18 School 20 Tart 22 Terra 23 Weak

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

This position is from the game Fischer - Spassky, Sveti Stefan (Game 1) 1992. This was Fischer's first competitive game after an absence of twenty years. He has just moved his knight to f5. What did he have in mind against 1... gxf5?



Solution: After the capture 1... gxf5 2 Bxf5 is checkmate!
CROSSWORD ENTHUSIASTS: For mail order details of all Times Crossword Books and The Times Computer Crossword software for beginners or experts, (runs on most PCs), telephone Akorn Ltd on 081 832 4575 (24 hours) or call CDS Doncaster on 0302 890 000. Postage free until Christmas (applies UK only).

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New delay over Saudi defence contract puts BAe jobs at risk

By OUR INDUSTRIAL STAFF

THE signing of British Aerospace's long-awaited £20 billion second phase of the Al Yamamah defence contract with Saudi Arabia has been delayed until next year at the earliest.

BAe, which acts as main contractor on defence sales to the Saudis under the contract, has told sub-contractors to expect the delay. Those likely to be hurt by the new delay include GEC, the defence and electronics group; Rolls-Royce, the aero-engine maker; Vötsch Thornycroft, the shipbuilder; and Westland, the helicopter group.

John Cahill, BAe chairman, is developing a strategy under which the company concentrates on defence and aerospace. The delays put thousands of jobs at risk at BAe and other defence suppliers.

The contract was first agreed between the Saudi and British governments to run in two stages in 1985 and 1988. However, the second part, under which BAe expects to supply 48 additional Tornado bombers, 60 Hawk aircraft and various defence-related services, has failed to materialise. Other defence contractors have been waiting

anxiously for the second phase to be concluded.

Last October, at the time of BAe's failed £432 million rights issue, the company hoped the second phase of Al Yamamah would be signed by Christmas. Hopes were raised again during the visit of Malcolm Rifkind, defence secretary, to the Middle East in September. On his return, Mr Rifkind said the Saudi Arabian government was committed to the project as the British government.

However, the Saudi mood appears to have changed since the recent decision by the US Congress not to op-

pose the sale of 72 F-15 jets to Saudi Arabia.

A BAe spokesman denied any knowledge of a delay. He said: "We continue to have an ongoing relationship with the Saudis. Our discussions continue and we remain satisfied with the progress of these discussions."

The delay comes despite comments from the Saudi authorities last week that talks over the defence agreement between Saudi Arabia and the UK government continue and that any equipment being purchased from other countries does not affect the Al Yamamah programme.



Concentrating on defence: John Cahill, BAe chairman

Handwritten text in Arabic script: "مركز البحوث والدراسات"